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In the Matter of

Preparation for International
Telecommunication Union World
Radiocommunication Conferences)

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NOTICE OF INQUIRY

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By this Notice of Inquiry (NOI), we begin a proceeding to prepare for the 1995 and future World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs). The next WRC, WRC-95 is scheduled to convene in November 1995, and is expected to consider a substantive agenda recommended to it by the 1993 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-93). In accordance with the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) current plan that schedules WRCs biennially, WRC-95 also will recommend an agenda for WRC-97 and will develop a preliminary agenda for WRC-99. In this proceeding, we seek information to assist us in developing U.S. proposals relating to issues on the agenda of WRC-95, and in refining recommended and preliminary agendas for WRC-97 and WRC-99. Well-developed U.S. proposals at future world conferences should promote competitiveness in world telecommunication markets. In addition, facilitating the introduction of new services such as worldwide mobile-satellite services will foster universal access to telecommunication services and could be a key component of a seamless, global communications network. In this proceeding we also solicit comment on how the FCC might improve its future conference preparatory process to ensure responsiveness to the needs of U.S. industry and the public.

II. BACKGROUND

2. World Radiocommunication Conference Scheduling Cycle. The 1992 ITU Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (APP) adopted a major restructuring of the ITU.¹ Part of that restructuring was a recommendation that WRCs normally convene every two years, and that a four year conference planning cycle be initiated. Thus, each WRC would consider current substantive issues, develop a recommended agenda for the next WRC in two years, and recommend a preliminary agenda for the following WRC in four years. The first of these regularly scheduled conferences was WRC-93. In accordance with APP Resolution No. 9,² WRC-93 convened in Geneva in November of 1993 to recommend to the ITU's Administrative Council (Council) a substantive agenda for WRC-95, and to begin the aforementioned four-year WRC planning cycle by recommending a preliminary agenda for WRC-97.

¹ See Final Acts of the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference, Geneva, 1992. Specifically, for restructuring of the ITU, see Articles 7-14 of the Constitution (CS). See also Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket No. 93-198, 8 FCC Rcd 4512 (1993) at paras. 2 and 3.

² See Final Acts of the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference, Resolution No. 9 (Geneva 1992).

3. **WRC-93 Results.** The Council, based upon the APP's recommendations, directed WRC-93 to recommend including on the agenda of WRC-95 two specific topics: 1) a review of the Radio Regulations based upon a report of the Voluntary Group of Experts (VGE), and 2) facilitating use of frequency bands allocated to the mobile-satellite service (MSS).³ WRC-93 did indeed recommend that these two items be included on the agenda of WRC-95. In addition, WRC-93 recommended that WRC-95 review the progress of studies related to the following topics: 1) Resolution No. 712 (WARC-92), dealing with space service allocation issues not considered at the 1992 World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC-92); 2) revision of Appendices 30 and 30A for Regions 1 and 3; and 3) availability of high-frequency broadcasting (HFBC). Each of these issues are discussed in more detail below.

4. WRC-93 also agreed on a preliminary agenda for WRC-97 that includes the following topics: 1) unresolved issues from WRC-95, including specifically those related to the mobile-satellite service; 2) revision of Appendices 30 and 30A; 3) HFBC matters; 4) various maritime and aeronautical issues; 5) several unresolved Resolutions and Recommendations from past conferences; and 6) preliminary views on agendas for the 1999 and 2001 WRCs.⁴

III. DISCUSSION

5. We seek information and comments that address technical and regulatory matters related to the agenda items included in the WRC-93 Final Acts. The information we receive will assist us in developing proposals and positions that will advance U.S. goals at WRC-95. Since WRC-95 also will recommend an agenda for WRC-97 and a preliminary agenda for WRC-99, parties also are invited to identify any new issues that would be timely for consideration at those conferences.

³ See Resolution No. 1032, Document 7346-E, 47th ITU Administrative Council (Geneva, 1992).

⁴ See Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1993), attached as Attachment 1.

A. Agenda for the 1995 World Radiocommunication Conference

1. REVIEW OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE VOLUNTARY GROUP OF EXPERTS (VGE)

6. The recommended agenda for WRC-95 includes a review of the report of the Voluntary Group of Experts (VGE) and necessary related actions⁵. The VGE was formed by the ITU Administrative Council in 1990, in response to Resolution No. 8 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Nice, 1989)⁶. Its objective was to develop recommendations for simplifying the Table of Frequency Allocations and the other provisions of the Radio Regulations. The group's work was divided into three task categories, each addressing a major part of the Radio Regulations: Task 1 - Allocation matters; Task 2 - Procedural Matters Related to the Use of Frequencies; and Task 3 - Operational and Administrative Matters. The VGE held its last meeting over the period 23 February - 4 March 1994. Its report will be provided to the ITU Council and forwarded to administrations for consideration at the WRC-95.⁷

7. In general, the VGE sought to simplify text without affecting significantly the substance of the regulations. Its recommendations include specific revisions to portions of the Radio Regulations for consideration by WRC-95 as well as general guidelines that may be relevant for consideration by WRC-95 and other future WRCs. Parties interested in the topics addressed by the VGE are encouraged to refer to the VGE output texts. For convenience, some of the key issues of the VGE are summarized below.

8. **VGE Task 1: Allocation Matters.** The VGE considered several approaches to simplifying the Table of Frequency Allocations and related provisions of the Radio Regulations. The VGE decided to recommend retention of the basic structure of allocations whereby the radio frequency spectrum is divided into sections called bands each being "allocated" to one or more radio services; moreover, the concepts of "primary" and "secondary" services and the concepts of "allotment" and "assignment" were recommended to be retained. The definitions of the radio services were reviewed to see if a smaller set of more broadly defined services would be

⁵ Agenda item no. 1 reads: "to review the final report of the VGE, and to consider related proposals from administrations, in order to undertake, as appropriate, a revision of the Radio Regulations and to provide a timetable for the implementation of outstanding recommended actions."

⁶ See Final Acts of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, Nice, 1989, Resolution No. 8.

⁷ A major portion of Report of the VGE (including Part A: General Guidelines and Recommendations, and Part B: Recommended Changes to the Radio Regulations) has been entered in the docket file of this proceeding and will be available for review.

practicable; however, the VGE decided against recommending restructuring the service definitions.⁸ The VGE did develop under Task 1 recommendations of both a general and specific nature.

9. The recommendations of a general nature were presented as potential guidelines that might be taken into account at future WRCs dealing with allocation matters, for example:

a) Where possible, the most broadly defined services should be allocated (e.g., favor use of "mobile-satellite" rather than "maritime mobile-satellite"), to promote flexibility of use; also, allocations should be made applicable over the broadest geographical area possible (i.e., maximize alignment of allocations among different regions).

b) Footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations should be limited to cases that alter, limit or otherwise change the relevant allocations (rather than outlining procedural matters); footnotes should be used sparingly and only where international implications necessitate their use; footnotes should be used only to achieve flexibility, to protect existing usage, to promote compatibility for transitional situations, or to provide for the specific requirements of a country or area; footnotes serving a common purpose should be written in a common format.

c) Encourage periodic review by administrations and the Radiocommunications Bureau to identify those country-specific footnotes to the Allocations Table that are no longer needed and may be deleted; moreover, it should be possible at future WRCs for countries to remove themselves from footnotes irrespective of the WRC agenda otherwise defined.

10. The VGE also prepared some specific recommendations on the frequency allocations, including: a) standardization of texts for certain types of footnotes (e.g., those related to the Radio Astronomy service, and those related to use of frequencies for Industrial Scientific and Medical purposes), b) standardization of text for those footnotes referring to the former Article 14 procedure, and c) deletion of the "Permitted" category of service and consequential revision of allocations and associated footnotes maintaining the intent of the existing regulations.

11. Parties are invited to comment on the approaches indicated above and on specific proposals outlined in the report of the VGE including consideration as to what extent such allocation matters should be treated by WRC-95.

⁸ As an exception, the VGE did recommend deletion of the unique definition for "aeronautical fixed service" and it presented an associated recommendation to revise the one affected allocation block.

12. VGE Task 2: Procedural Matters Related to the Use of Frequencies.

The VGE has undertaken a major re-write of the regulatory procedures (e.g., Articles 11-17). The topics contained within these articles relate to:

- Rights and obligations relating to frequency assignments,
- Examinations undertaken by the Bureau,
- Assistance from the Bureau for administrations,
- Status of entries in the Master International Frequency Register,
- Advance publication (of space systems),
- Coordination procedures,
- World or regional frequency allotment or assignment plans,
- The procedure relating to HF broadcasting,
- Actions by the Bureau, and procedures for review of findings.

13. The VGE employed a "clean slate" approach for simplification of the regulatory procedures; it decided to recommend a basic regulatory procedure (for the coordination and notification of radio frequency assignments) to embrace all the common elements that may apply to various services and bands. The basic procedure includes, to the extent practicable, the provisions necessary to deal with the unique circumstances encountered for particular bands and/or services. This approach was pursued because of concerns over a growing number of slightly distinct procedures that needed to be followed for different bands and categories of frequency assignments.

14. The VGE adopted the principle that all important features of the existing procedures should be preserved and, as far as possible, the wording of existing texts should also be preserved. However, because of the complexity of some of the current procedures -- and because some judgment had to be used by the VGE in its effort to develop a simplified set of regulations -- it is possible that elements of the procedures important to some categories of licensees could have been overlooked.⁹

⁹ For example, the VGE-proposed text would appear to supersede Resolution 46 -- the procedure for coordination of *non-geostationary* satellite networks, recently adopted by WARC-92 for application in selected mobile-satellite frequency bands.

Resolution 46 contains a unique process for identification of administrations with which coordination must be accomplished. That process begins with the initiating administration submitting its request for coordination to the ITU for publication in the ITU's Weekly Circular (Special Sections for Space Systems). Then, upon reviewing the Weekly Circular, administrations not agreeing with the proposed space segment use would be required to respond to the initiating administration by a date certain providing the technical basis for opposition. Thus, only those administrations that tracked the Weekly Circular, anticipated technical difficulties and responded within the treaty-stipulated time-frame would be considered in coordinations. In recognition of the potentially large number of administrations involved, WARC-92 considered it necessary to establish a clearly defined

Moreover, in the development of the new regulatory text, some matters of detail have been purposely left out of the body of the text with the intention that such details will be covered by the "Rules of Procedure" to be developed by the Radiocommunication Bureau for adoption by the Radio Regulations Board¹⁰

15. Many of these regulatory procedures have been the subject of lengthy and delicate negotiations at previous radio conferences. Thus, the VGE's work will be reviewed closely to consider the extent to which it reflects the intent of long-held understandings within the ITU radiocommunication sector. Parties should comment

process with distinct, yet reasonable, time limits.

The VGE's basic procedure for coordination (covered in Article S9 of the VGE recommendations) includes provisions that would likely replace Resolution 46. A question arises as to whether the VGE's Article S9 retains the essential attributes of the current process. In an effort to simplify, the VGE has applied a standard process for nearly all cases of coordination; i.e., a request for coordination must be mailed to all potentially affected administrations (Article S9, ¶ 3.12). This could be a daunting undertaking -- particularly for *non-geostationary satellite* systems -- so the VGE has included the alternative of requesting that the posting in the Weekly Circular constitute a request for coordination (¶ 3.12*bis*). However, a definitive cut-off of other administrations' rights in the event of silence appears to have been lost. Noting that responding administrations may take their own *planned* assignments into account when assessing the proposed non-geostationary space service, this could be an impossible undertaking.

Parties may wish to consider whether the VGE reformulation of the existing, mandatory, Resolution 46 procedure is workable. If it is not, parties should indicate specific concerns and possible improvements that could be recommended by the U.S.

¹⁰ The Rules of Procedure (ROP) outline specific actions to be taken by the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) and the Radiocommunication Bureau (RB) in implementing the Radio Regulations (RRs) -- particularly with respect to the notification and recording of radio frequencies in the Master International Frequency Register. The VGE proposes having fewer of the details in the treaty text of the RRs, allowing for development of more comprehensive ROP. The VGE has included in its report a comparative table listing the current regulatory provisions and their recommended disposition, including those provisions which are recommended for transfer to the ROP. The responsibilities of the RB to develop the ROP and the RRB to approve them are established in the ITU Constitution and Convention, (see CS95 and CV168, Final Acts of the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference, Geneva, 1992); the VGE has also recommended provisions in the RRs elaborating on the process of review/approval of the ROP. These rules are important because they ultimately affect administrations' rights and obligations with respect to their frequency assignment. The provisions removed from the RRs would cease to be subject to the rigorous negotiations associated with WRCs and the increased flexibility afforded the RB might facilitate expeditious development of procedures as necessary. Parties may wish to address the desirability of effecting the proposed transfer of selected RR provisions to the ROP as well as the process for their development, review, and approval as elaborated in the VGE report.

on whether a) the VGE proposed improvements reflect changes that are helpful or detrimental to national interests and b) it is timely and feasible to address such matters in the context of on-going frequency assignment, coordination and notification activity. Also, where difficulties are foreseen with the VGE recommendations, parties should indicate alternative approaches and solutions, where appropriate.

16. Task 3: Operational and Administrative Matters. The work within this task embraces all of the provisions of the Radio Regulations (RRs) not covered by tasks 1 and 2; this consists of approximately 65 Articles in the RRs and numerous appendices. As with the other VGE tasks, the group has sought to identify redundant, superfluous and outdated text.

17. Considerable attention was given to identifying text that might be moved from the RRs to other supporting documentation, such as the Recommendations of the Radiocommunication Sector (formerly known as CCIR Recommendations). The regulatory force of such material could be maintained, if desired, by specific references within the RRs to the applicable recommendation. This technique has been referred to as "incorporation by reference." This is seen as a possible means to trim some bulky technical material from the RRs while facilitating its updating on a regular basis by the relevant study group. WRCs could continue to oversee the formal incorporation of the updated recommendation into the RRs by routinely including such matters on the WRC agendas. During the VGE discussions, some participants observed that there was value in having ITU documentation self contained. Because the RRs cover a number of diverse radio services, one must consider the trade-offs between the breadth of coverage and the reference value for particular radio services. Parties addressing this issue should consider the legal/treaty considerations apart from the publication formats, also bearing in mind the role of ancillary publications.¹¹

18. In an effort to eliminate redundant text and improve readability, text presenting information on usage of special frequencies has been reformatted and augmented by tables similar in structure to the present Appendix 18. This approach has been utilized for Article N38, where similar text in the current version is repeated for each distress/safety frequency. A significant reduction in length and improvement in clarity is obtained. Respondents are invited to comment on these recommendations as appropriate.

¹¹ Numerous ancillary publications on detailed operational matters are prepared by the Radiocommunication Bureau to augment the Radio Regulations. The scope of some of these are defined in the Radio Regulations (most notably in Article 26). The VGE has recommended the suppression of a substantial portion of Article 26, dealing with "Service Documents." The proposed revision would maintain the obligation to prepare most (but not all) of the publications listed therein. However, the VGE recommends that the details of their content be "decided by the Bureau in consultation with administrations."

2. MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICES

19. In our preparations for WRC-93,¹² we noted that U.S. entities have shown a strong desire to provide mobile-satellite service (MSS) from both geostationary (GSO) and low-earth orbit (LEO) platforms. MSS holds great promise for providing a seamless, worldwide communication infrastructure. Facilitating the introduction worldwide of commercial MSS could create a brand new U.S. industry, and consequently, new employment opportunities in the United States. Because of the promise this new enterprise holds for U.S. industry, a major goal of the U.S. delegation at WRC-93 was to facilitate the introduction of worldwide MSS. The recommended WRC-95 agenda allows the United States the opportunity to address all issues related to its MSS requirements by: 1) providing for a review of technical constraints associated with frequency bands below 3 GHz that are allocated to MSS; 2) a review of the date of entry into force of certain MSS allocations in the 2 GHz range; 3) consideration of allocations and regulatory aspects of feeder links for MSS; and, 4) with a view toward WRC-97 taking substantive action, consideration of requirements for MSS and associated feeder links, including adopting limited allocations in 1995.¹³ In addition, the preliminary agenda for WRC-97 allows for consideration of unresolved MSS issues from WRC-95.¹⁴ Specific WRC-95 MSS agenda items are discussed below.

20. Review of Technical Constraints. WRC-93 has included on the recommended agenda for WRC-95 a review of technical constraints associated with bands below 3 GHz that are allocated to MSS, with a view to removing or amending the constraints in order to facilitate the introduction of MSS operations.¹⁵ This agenda item is broad and could include a wide range of issues. We invite parties to identify and address technical constraints that might hinder the advancement of worldwide MSS operation. For example, are there any technical limits, either in the allocation table or in specific rules of the Radio Regulations that could be removed or improved to help facilitate the implementation of worldwide MSS in bands below 3 GHz?¹⁶ If

¹² See WRC-93 NOI, *supra* at para. 7.

¹³ See WRC-93 Final Acts, Resolution No. COM 4/1 a 2.1 a), 2.1 b), 2.1 c) and 3 d).

¹⁴ See Final Acts, *supra*, at Resolution No. [COM 4/2], agenda item 3.1.

¹⁵ See Final Acts, *supra*, at 2.1 a).

¹⁶ For example, some administrations have expressed concern that non-voice, non-geostationary MSS operations below 1 GHz (NVNG MSS) might cause interference to existing terrestrial services. In the United States two footnotes, US 323 and US 325 (see Report and Order, ET Docket No. 91-280, 8 FCC Rcd 1812 (1993)), were added to the table of allocations. These footnotes establish coordination thresholds and impose limits on the duration and/or power levels of MSS transmissions in the 148-149.9 MHz band. They were

so, what actions can the United States take to remove unnecessary constraints? Additionally, are there any technical studies or requirements that should be developed that would ease the introduction of worldwide MSS, particularly in bands to be shared with other services?¹⁷

21. Date of Entry into Force of 2 GHz Allocations. Agenda item 2.1(b) concerns a review of the date of entry into force of MSS allocations in the 1980-2010 MHz and 2170-2200 MHz bands in Regions 1 and 3, and of MSS allocations in the 1970-2010 MHz and 2160-2200 MHz bands in Region 2.¹⁸ At WARC-92, there was disagreement among administrations regarding the effective date of entry into force of MSS allocations in the 2 GHz frequency range noted above. By footnote 746C (WARC-92) to the international table of allocations, the United States stated its requirement to permit MSS to be brought into use in these bands after 1995. Other administrations (by footnote 746B) may not commence operations until 2005. Among the considerations at WARC-92 that resulted in differing dates were diverse views on: projected MSS requirements; existing fixed service use; and, projected needs for terrestrial mobile radio services. The difference in dates could affect the status of an administration's proposed satellite systems vis-a-vis those of other administrations. We request parties to address the effect on U.S. MSS interests that advancing the

added specifically to protect fixed and mobile services. Similar footnotes, adopted internationally, might ease interference concerns of some administrations and thereby facilitate implementing NVNG MSS worldwide.

¹⁷ For example, many administrations are concerned about the effect new MSS services might have on existing terrestrial services. Parties should address that concern, bearing in mind any related work being carried out in ITU-R Study Groups. Another area of concern might be the effect of MSS operations on safety services. For example, in the United States we have adopted priority and preemption requirements to assure that safety and distress communications are given precedence in the 1.5/1.6 MHz MSS bands. Although standards to ensure priority and preemption are under development in different fora, perhaps adopting certain worldwide provisions would facilitate introducing commercial MSS in the referenced bands. Parties are invited to address this point, recognizing the ongoing discussions within the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Comments should identify specific areas to be explored, such as levels of priority, terminal identification protocols, spectrum access, and system availability, and whether Radio Regulations or Recommendations would be the appropriate mechanism.

¹⁸ The ITU has divided the world into three Regions. Generally, Region 1 encompasses Africa, Europe and the Middle East; Region 2 encompasses the Americas and Greenland; and Region 3 encompasses India, Russia, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. See 47 CFR Section 2.104 (b) for a precise definition of the three Regions.

date of entry into force of the global 2 GHz MSS allocations would have on future U.S. systems.¹⁹

22. Allocations and Regulatory Aspects of Feeder Links. Agenda item 2.1 (c) addresses allocations and regulatory aspects of MSS feeder links. Because of increasing demand for spectrum to launch new MSS operations, the adequacy of existing fixed-satellite service (FSS) spectrum to accommodate future MSS feeder link requirements,²⁰ and of the regulations that govern its use have come into question.

23. The Commission has noted previously that spectrum available for MSS feeder link use, particularly for non-geostationary (non-GSO) MSS systems operating above 1 GHz, will be scarce.²¹ To ensure the viability of new non-GSO MSS systems, spectrum suitable for MSS feeder links must be identified. Current C and Ku-band FSS spectrum²² appears too congested to support future non-GSO MSS feeder link requirements. Although the Commission is assessing the suitability of frequencies in the 20/30 GHz range and elsewhere for feeder link use,²³ sufficient spectrum has not yet been identified.²⁴

24. With regard to regulatory aspects of feeder links, one issue is the status of non-Geostationary (non-GSO) MSS use of FSS spectrum for feeder links, vis-a-vis GSO FSS use of the same spectrum. RR No. 2613 stipulates certain obligations of

¹⁹ Parties should note that WRC-93 recommended that WRC-95 consider the status of those MSS satellite networks in certain bands near 2 GHz which have been published with the ITU before WRC-95.

²⁰ Feeder links for MSS are in the fixed-satellite service and have use of FSS spectrum as specified in 47 CFR § 25.202.

²¹ See "Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Establish Rules and Policies Pertaining to a Mobile-Satellite Service in the 1610-1626.5/2483.5-2500 MHz Frequency Bands," Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (MSS Above 1 GHz NPRM), CC Docket No. 92-166, 9 FCC Rcd 1094 (1994), at paras. 70-77.

²² I.e., the 3700-4200 MHz, 5925-6415 MHz, 11.7-12.2 GHz, 12.2-12.7 GHz and 14.0-14.5 GHz bands.

²³ See e.g., MSS Above 1 GHz NPRM, supra, at para. 77.

²⁴ In addition, other sharing mechanisms, such as "reverse-band working", are being studied as a means of alleviating congestion in spectrum used for feeder links. Parties are invited to address alternatives for accommodating future feeder link requirements.

non-GSO users of feeder link spectrum vis-a-vis FSS systems using the GSO.²⁵ The Commission's recently concluded "Above 1 GHz Negotiated Rule Making Committee" arrived at an interpretation of RR No. 2613 that would assure non-GSO operators greater equality with GSO FSS operators in the regulatory process that determines use of the subject spectrum.²⁶ This interpretation has been put forth in WP 4/A of ITU-R Study Group 4. Adequate spectrum for MSS feeder links and the ease of its use will be critical to future non-GSO MSS endeavors. Thus, to further development of non-GSO systems, action may be required to find additional spectrum for feeder links and/or to clarify RR No. 2613 in a manner that would be equitable to non-GSO operators.

25. We invite parties to comment on the feeder link issues discussed above. Specifically, with regard to non-GSO MSS, parties should address whether suitable technical arrangements can be devised for sharing of FSS spectrum between non-GSO MSS and GSO FSS feeder link operations. If so, what effect would these sharing arrangements have on the interpretation and application of RR No. 2613? Parties should also address whether frequency bands should be designated specifically for non-GSO feeder link use and whether additional feeder link spectrum will be required for all types of MSS.

26. Future MSS Spectrum Requirements. Agenda Item 3 (d) of the WRC-93 Final Acts provides for consideration of future requirements for MSS and associated feeder links with a view to taking substantive action at WRC-97. It also gives WRC-95 the latitude, if necessary, to adopt in 1995 limited MSS allocations. The current "patchwork" of international MSS allocations makes it difficult for any administration to implement MSS operations worldwide. It appears possible, for example, to implement MSS in some countries, but not in others.

²⁵ RR No. 2613 states:

"Non-geostationary space stations shall cease or reduce to a negligible level their emissions, and their associated earth stations shall not transmit to them, whenever there is insufficient angular separation between non-geostationary satellites and geostationary satellites resulting in unacceptable interference to geostationary satellite space systems in the fixed satellite service operating in accordance with these Regulations."

RR2613.1 states:

"1/ The level of accepted interference shall be fixed by agreement between administrations concerned, using the relevant CCIR Recommendations as a guide."

Some parties believe that RR No. 2613 relegates feeder links for non-GSO MSS use to secondary status.

²⁶ See Report of the MSS Above 1 GHz Rulemaking Committee, CC Docket No. 92-166 (April 6, 1993).

27. We anticipate future requirements for additional MSS spectrum both below and above 1 GHz. Usable MSS spectrum will be difficult to identify and to allocate worldwide. We invite parties to explore all options for satisfying future MSS spectrum allocations.²⁷ As a starting point, interested parties should note that the 399.9-400.05 band has been allocated for NVNG MSS domestically. Although the United States sought at WRC-93 to have WRC-95 address frequency allocations and associated provisions relating to this band, the decision of WRC-93 was to place this topic on the WRC-97 agenda. We request comment on whether the United States should propose reallocation of this band under agenda item 3 (d) of the WRC-95 recommended agenda. Similarly, at WARC-92, the United States proposed unsuccessfully an international allocation of the 2390-2420 MHz band to GSO MSS. In its recent preliminary spectrum reallocation report,²⁸ NTIA has identified this spectrum as being available immediately for non-Government use.²⁹ Parties should address whether the United States should again pursue an international MSS allocation in this band. When addressing MSS allocations, parties should strive to portray accurately future demand for service, and to address technical issues associated with the use of proposed new MSS allocations. Those who comment should give their assessment of how much additional spectrum would be required to meet anticipated MSS demand, the basis for their assessment and where in the spectrum future MSS allocations might be located.

3. SPACE SERVICES

28. Earth Stations in the 2025-2110 MHz band. WARC-92 added primary allocations to the International table of allocations for the space research (Earth-to-space) (space-to-Earth), space operation (Earth-to-space)(space-to-Earth), and Earth exploration-satellite (Earth-to-space)(space-to-Earth) services to the existing primary allocations for the fixed and mobile services for the 2025-2110 MHz and 2200-2290 MHz bands. WRC-95 is to consider power limits for Earth stations in the space

²⁷ For example, in a September 21, 1993 FCC News release, the Commission announced that the FCC and NTIA had presented to the Department of State by letter joint recommendations for WRC-93 proposals. We noted that specific MSS bands had been agreed upon by the two agencies as U.S. proposals at WRC-93. We also noted that the use of other bands, not part of the WRC-93 proposals, were under continued discussion. Specifically, in the joint letter to Department of State, it was stated that the agencies "...will be continuing discussions on use of certain additional frequencies (312-315 MHz, 387-390 MHz, 1492-1525 MHz, 1675-1710 MHz) for MSS. See Attachments 2 and 3.

²⁸ See Preliminary Spectrum Reallocation Report, U.S. Department of Commerce, NTIA Special Publication 94-27, (February 1994), Section 4 at 14-17.

²⁹ Subject to certain restrictions; see Preliminary Spectrum Reallocation Report, U.S. Department of Commerce, NTIA Special Publication 94-27, 1994.

science services that operate in the 2025-2110 MHz band.³⁰ Several working parties have been actively considering requirements for various services to share these bands. Recommendation ITU-R SA.609 recommends that the aggregate value of interfering signals at the input to the spacecraft's receiver not exceed -181 dB (w/kHz); studies conducted by Working Party 9B indicate that this value will be exceeded by fixed systems in these bands. While it is necessary to develop technical and operational guidelines for the various services to share this spectrum in an effective manner, we request comment on sharing between services in this band. We also invite parties to comment on the timing for consideration of this issue; i.e. whether it is appropriate to consider this matter at WRC-95, or as the United States proposed at WRC-93, would it be more appropriate to consider this issue as part of a general treatment of space science matters at WRC-97?³¹

29. Fixed Satellite Service use of the Band 13.75-14 GHz. WARC-92 made a primary allocation for FSS in the 13.75-14 GHz band. This band is also allocated on a co-primary basis for radiolocation services and on a secondary basis for the space research, Earth exploration-satellite, and standard frequency and time signal-satellite services. Recognizing the difficulties encountered in sharing spectrum, WARC-92 also added to the international Radio Regulations footnote No. 855A, which specifies technical criteria necessary for the primary services to share this band, and footnote No. 855B, which grants equal status with FSS operations to geostationary space stations in the space research service that were advance published prior to January 31, 1992. Footnote 855B also stipulates that FSS stations shall not cause harmful interference to non-geostationary stations in the space research service prior to January 1, 2000. Resolution No. 112 (WARC-92) calls for the criteria specified in footnote 855A to be studied and for studies to be conducted regarding the technical compatibility between FSS and secondary allocations in the 13.75-14 GHz band. ITU-R Task Groups 4/4 and 7/3 have completed the studies called for under Resolution 112 and have reported to the ITU-R that the criteria in footnote Nos. 855A and 855B are appropriate. Considering this, we believe that this topic is timely for consideration at WRC-95. This is also consistent with the United States' position at WRC-93, where, because of radiolocation operations and space science operations conducted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) in this band, the United States considered it important that Resolution 112 be addressed at WRC-95. Parties are invited to comment on issues associated with this agenda item.

³⁰ In the United States, the 2025-2110 MHz band is allocated to the mobile service on a primary basis. Transmissions in the space research and earth exploration-satellite services are limited by footnote U.S. 90. See 47 CFR Section 2.106.

³¹ The preliminary agenda for WRC-97 calls for that conference to consider Resolution 211 (WARC-92) concerning use of the 2025-2110 MHz and 2200-2290 MHz bands by mobile services, and sharing by the mobile and space services.

30. Space Services Allocations. Resolution 712 adopted by WARC-92 requests consideration of the following issues relating to space science services: 1) providing worldwide primary allocations for the earth-exploration and space research services in appropriate bands within the 8-20 GHz range; 2) satisfying inter-satellite service requirements near 23 GHz; 3) providing spectrum for space-based active earth sensors around the 35 GHz band; and 4) including certain CCIR-developed space science service coordination parameters in Appendix 28 of the Radio Regulations. Examination of these issues at WRC-95 is limited to consideration of work carried out by the study groups, with the intention that any necessary action will be taken at WRC-97 as part of that conference's overall consideration of space science issues. Parties are invited to address the issues noted above, bearing in mind that substantive action is planned for WRC-97.

4. APPENDICES 30 AND 30A

31. Appendices 30 and 30A of the international Radio Regulations provide plans for the use of certain frequencies for the broadcasting-satellite service (BSS)³² and associated feeder links.³³ Considering that the BSS plans for Regions 1 and 3 originated in 1977 and that they do not take into account many technological improvements which could make more efficient use of the spectrum and orbit resources, Resolution No. 524 (WARC-92) invited the CCIR to study the technical possibilities for improving the efficiency and flexibility of the BSS plans for Regions 1 and 3. Resolution 524 also notes that making more efficient use of spectrum and orbits may enable some countries, in particular those which have high rainfall climatic zones, to accommodate their BSS needs, or part of their needs, in the applicable band.³⁴ Resolution 524 also determined, however, that any changes to the plans for Regions 1 and 3 should not undermine the integrity of the plan for Region 2.³⁵

³² The broadcasting-satellite service is a radiocommunication service in which signals transmitted or retransmitted by space stations are intended for direct reception by the general public.

³³ Appendix 30 contains provisions for BSS in the frequency bands 11.7-12.5 GHz in Region 1, 12.2-12.7 GHz in Region 2, and 11.7-12.2 GHz in Region 3. Appendix 30 A contains provisions for BSS feeder links in the frequency bands 14.5-14.8 GHz and 17.3-18.1 GHz in Regions 1 and 3, and 17.3-17.8 GHz in Region 2.

³⁴ 11.7-12.5 GHz for Region 1 and 11.7-12.2 for Region 3.

³⁵ Resolution 524 resolves 2 states:

"that the future conference shall ensure that the integrity of the Region 2 Plans and their associated provisions is preserved, by providing the same protection to the assignments contained in those Plans as they now receive under the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations and by not requiring more protection from

32. Agenda item 3 a) of the recommended agenda for WRC-95 provides for initial consideration of Resolution 524 with a view to substantive actions being taken at WRC-97.³⁶ This agenda item was proposed and supported by administrations in Regions 1 and 3. At WRC-93, expressed its concern over possible effects on Region 2 plans. We believe that the current Region 2 plan is sufficiently flexible to meet Region 2 needs. Accordingly, we request comment on the steps necessary to insure that the integrity of Region 2 plans are maintained if changes are made to the plans for Regions 1 and 3. For example, how can the flexibility and capacity of Appendices 30 and 30A be increased without impact on Region 2? Should approaches be considered that are based upon a principle of reciprocity with Region 2? Currently, Appendices 30 and 30A contain a number of rigorous interregional sharing criteria. Can any of these sharing criteria be modified or eliminated without impact on Region 2; and if so, should corresponding provisions applicable to Region 2 also be modified?

33. In addition to emphasizing the need to protect the integrity of the Region 2 Plans as described in Resolution 524, agenda item 3 a) also notes that modifications to Appendices 30 and 30A should be made, "... with due regard to the advantage of taking into account, where practicable, the orbital arcs of Appendix 30B." This addition is intended to make it possible for an administration to implement its allotment in the FSS plan of Appendix 30B with the same satellite used to implement its allotment in the BSS plan in Appendices 30 and 30A. We request comment on the implications for the United States if the orbital arcs of Appendix 30B are taken into account in any replanning effort in Regions 1 and 3.

5. HIGH FREQUENCY BROADCASTING PLANNING

34. Prompted by increasing congestion of frequencies for High Frequency (HF) broadcasting and concerns by some countries that too few frequencies would be available to satisfy their broadcasting needs, the World Administrative Radio Conference in 1979 (WARC-79) resolved³⁷ that a future WARC should be convened to address planning of frequencies allocated for HF broadcasting. WARC-79 also allocated additional frequencies for use by HF broadcasting but made such use

assignments in the Region 2 Plans than that currently provided under the Radio Regulations."

³⁶ See Final Acts, *supra*, agenda item no. 3.7.

³⁷ Resolution 508 (WARC-79).

subject to provisions to be established by the HFBC WARC.³⁸ A two-session HFBC WARC (HFBC-84 and HFBC-87) was directed to develop a planning method and implement planning for HF broadcasting. HFBC-84 determined that a computerized method should be prepared to implement seasonal planning for HF Broadcasting. That session established the parameters to be used in planning. However, HFBC-87 was unable to implement planning because of the inability of the proposed planning algorithm to satisfy all planning parameters and, simultaneously, to satisfy all HFBC requirements submitted by various administrations. HFBC-87 instructed the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB) to continue work on the computerized planning method. It also requested a future WARC, no later than 1992, to review, and if acceptable, to implement the planning process. An IFRB report presented to WARC-92, however, emphasized the difficulties experienced in satisfying all broadcasters' requirements. While WARC-92 did not directly address the process of planning the HF broadcasting bands, it did recognize the need for additional frequencies for HF broadcasting. Consequently, WARC-92 allocated additional frequencies for HF broadcasting subject to the planning provisions of a future WARC.³⁹

35. In the absence of "planning", the additional spectrum allocated by WARC-79 and WARC-92 will not become available on the implementation dates specified by those conferences despite the fact that actions have already been undertaken to vacate the WARC-79 allocations by other radio services.⁴⁰ Indeed, the original date for implementation of frequencies above 10 MHz allocated in WARC-79 has already passed (July 1, 1989), yet this spectrum remains unavailable because the conditions agreed on by HFBC-87 (i.e., adoption of a planning process) have not been satisfactorily completed.⁴¹

³⁸ The bands allocated under this provision are 9775-9900 kHz, 11650-11700 kHz, 11975-12050 kHz, 13800-13800 kHz, 15450-15800 kHz, 17550-17700 kHz, and 21750-21850 kHz. See Footnote 531 to the international Radio Regulations.

³⁹ The bands allocated by WARC-92 in accordance with RR 521B are: 5900-5950 kHz, 7300-7350 kHz, 9400-9500 kHz, 11600-11650 kHz, 12050-12100 kHz, 13570-13600 kHz, 13800-13870 kHz, 15800-15800 kHz, 17480-17550 kHz, and 18900-19020 kHz. Use of these bands by the broadcasting service is limited to single-sideband operation (see RR 521A).

⁴⁰ The spectrum allocations made by WARC-79 above 10 MHz were effective July 1, 1989, and the allocations below 10 MHz are to be effective July 1, 1994, see Resolution No. 8, Annex A, paragraph 17. The allocations made by WARC-92 are to be effective April 1, 2007, see RRs 521C, 528A, 529B and 534A, and Resolution 523 (WARC-92).

⁴¹ See Resolution No. 512 (HFBC-87).

36. WRC-95 consideration of these issues may be somewhat limited. Agenda item 3 c) of the recommended agenda refers to "taking into account the work carried out by the study groups and the Conference Preparatory Meeting... with a view to WRC-97 taking action... [on the issue of] availability of the newly allocated HFBC bands." Radiocommunication Study Group 10 recently set up Task Group 10/5 to study and report on the technical and regulatory issues related to HFBC planning.⁴² WRC-95 may take the opportunity to comment on the technical studies then underway. We note that major shortwave broadcasters now coordinate their actual use of the available HF broadcasting spectrum by voluntary consultations among administrations in accordance with Article 17 of the international Radio Regulations. Recently, the United States has supported efforts to implement a planning procedure based on an improved Article 17, perhaps through recognizing the International Broadcasters' HF Coordination Conference (HFCC), a group comprised of international HF broadcasters, as the body charged with coordinating HF broadcast spectrum use. The experiences of the HFCC could influence considerations by Task Group 10/5.

37. In the past, broadcasters have expressed great interest in actions that can be undertaken to make available expeditiously the HF spectrum allocated to HF broadcasting by WARC-79 and WARC-92. In view of the forthcoming work of the task group and limited consideration by WRC-95, we request comment on the alternatives that can satisfy broadcasters' requirements and the established conditions for use of the HFBC allocations.

B. Preliminary Agenda for the 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference

38. As part of the four year conference planning cycle WRC-93 recommended a preliminary agenda for WRC-97. A final agenda for WRC-97 will be recommended at WRC-95. In this NOI we solicit comment to refine U.S. positions relative to implementing the preliminary WRC-97 agenda.

39. It is possible that a considerable portion of the 1997 conference could be reserved (by WRC-95) for unresolved WRC-95 issues. For example, the preliminary agenda for WRC-97 already anticipates further consideration of mobile satellite service issues; action to modify Appendices 30 and 30A of the international Radio Regulations as they pertain to Regions 1 and 3; consideration of a number of space service allocation issues; and, action on the WARC-79 and WARC-92 allocations for

⁴² The Radiocommunication Assembly adopted, as part of its work program, a "Question" outlining issues to study relative to planning for HF broadcasting. Task Group 10/5 will prepare a report on "planning" the HF broadcasting bands in response to the Question taking account of the earlier work of the IFRB.

the HF broadcasting service.⁴³ In addition to items carried over from WRC-95, WRC-97 is scheduled to consider a number of maritime, aeronautical, and satellite science services issues.⁴⁴ Further, WRC-97 is scheduled to include consideration of implementing wind profiler radar systems at appropriate frequencies,⁴⁵ and simplification of the process for bringing into use multi-band and/or multi-service satellite networks.⁴⁶

40. The number of issues included on the preliminary agenda for WRC-97 may make it difficult to dedicate the time and resources necessary to consider fully each issue. Therefore, parties should address whether items now listed on the preliminary agenda are timely for consideration in 1997, or whether it would be appropriate to delay their consideration to a future conference. Parties should also address items that do not appear on the preliminary agenda for WRC-97, but that would be mature for consideration at the 1997 conference. Those who address WRC-97 should note that U.S. proposals and positions for 1997 will be refined further in subsequent NOIs. Therefore, comments regarding issues for the WRC-97 agenda should generally be limited to fully developed topics of significance to the United States.

⁴³ Items 3.7, 2.1, and 3.3 respectively, of the preliminary agenda for WRC-97, Final Acts WRC-93.

⁴⁴ See Preliminary Agenda for WRC-97, WRC-93 Final Acts, for a comprehensive list of issues to be considered at WRC-97.

⁴⁵ Recommendation No. 621 (WARC-92), item 2.2 on preliminary agenda for WRC-97. CCIR studies previously have focused on frequencies near 50 MHz, 400 MHz, and 1000 MHz. The Commission also has an outstanding rule making to consider this issue. Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Notice of Inquiry, Amendment of Section 2.1-6 of the Commission's Rules to Allocate Spectrum for Wind Profiler Radar Systems, ET Docket No. 93-59, 8 FCC Rcd 2546 (1993).

⁴⁶ Item 2.2 on preliminary agenda for WRC-97, includes considering and acting upon Recommendation No. 715 (Orb-88). Recommendation No. 715 relates to multi-band/multiservice satellite networks in geostationary orbit. Although not specifically included on the preliminary agenda for WRC-97, Recommendation No. 719 (WARC-92) is related to Recommendation No. 715. It notes that certain bands are allocated on a primary basis for both the fixed-satellite and mobile-satellite services and recommends that studies be carried out on the technical characteristics and sharing criteria necessary for multi-service satellite networks in those frequency bands. Recommendation No. 719 further recommends that a future conference consider a single service definition encompassing mobile-satellite and fixed-satellite service applications. Establishment of such a general satellite service was proposed by the United States at WARC-92. However, that conference adopted a compromise proposal that included Recommendation No. 719. This matter was not included in the current agendas for WRC-95 and WRC-97. Parties should address whether consideration of Recommendation No. 719 should again be proposed for WRC-97.

C. Preliminary Views on the 1999 World Radiocommunication Conference

41. In accordance with the ITU's four-year conference planning cycle, WRC-95 is directed to give to the Council its views on a preliminary agenda for the 1999 WRC. We invite parties to submit their views on issues for a preliminary agenda for the 1999 WRC. Those commenting should bear in mind that preceding conferences could have unresolved issues that carry over to the 1999 WRC and to subsequent conferences. Also note that U.S. proposals and positions for agenda items for the 1999 WRC will be refined further in subsequent FCC proceedings.

D. Other WRC Planning Activities

42. Industry Advisory Committee. In parallel with its NOI proceeding, the Commission will establish an industry advisory committee (IAC) to develop independent private sector proposals and positions on agenda items contained in the WRC-93 Final Acts. The IAC will be chaired by a member of the private sector and will meet periodically to carry out its work. Meetings will be announced by Public Notice. The final product of the IAC will likely be a "Report" giving the IAC's views on U.S. proposals and positions for WRC-95. The FCC, in consultation with NTIA and the Department of State, will take account of the IAC's report when developing final U.S. proposals and positions to WRC-95.

43. Conference Preparatory Meetings. Another result of the ITU restructuring is the institution of a conference preparation structure within the ITU's Radiocommunication Sector. This structure identifies tasks and studies relative to WRC agenda items and assigns the tasks and studies to the appropriate ITU study groups, working parties and task groups who report results to Conference Preparatory Meetings (CPMs). The first CPM was held in February 1994 and produced an outline for the report of the next CPM (CPM-95) to WRC-95 that will be held March 22-April 5, 1995, in Geneva. That report is expected to provide a technical basis⁴⁷ for consideration of nearly all WRC-95 topics.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ The CPM was initially envisioned to provide to WRCs information of primarily a technical or operational nature. However, the expanded terms of reference of ITU-R study group activities also allow for considering topics of a regulatory/procedural nature. Moreover, the Radiocommunication Assembly decided that a Working Party of the CPM should carry out studies related to regulatory/procedural matters; the recently concluded first session of the CPM adopted terms of reference for that Working Party.

⁴⁸ See Structure of the Consolidated Report of the ITU-R Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM-95) to the World Radiocommunication Conference, 1995, ITU Document CPM94/22, Geneva (1994).

44. FCC Preparations For Future WRCs. The ITU's High Level Committee emphasized strongly the need for the ITU to establish regular processes for planning and decision making.⁴⁹ As the ITU has now moved to regularize the convening of WRCs on a biennial basis, we find it appropriate to consider our own process of preparing for radio conferences. In the past, we have solicited public input as-needed to address the specific topics of impending conferences. The ITU's new organization and scheduling of conferences will likely require a continuous process of conference preparation, particularly considering the lead time required to develop proposals for any given conference. We wish to be able to be more responsive to developing needs of industry so that U.S. interests can be identified on a timely basis and properly represented at WRCs and the related activities.⁵⁰ Therefore, we believe that it would be appropriate for us to establish a regularized process for conference preparations, including maintenance of an open docket in this NOI.⁵¹ Parties are invited to comment on such procedural matters (e.g., establishment of a permanent FCC conference preparatory structure) that may facilitate timely consideration of public views on conference preparations now and in the future.

⁴⁹ See Report of the High Level Committee [HLC] to review the structure and functioning of the ITU, Geneva (1991). The HLC recommended that the ITU place greater emphasis on strategic planning, and that radio conferences develop recommended agendas for at least a four-year cycle of conferences. Most of the HLC recommendations have been adopted by the ITU and incorporated into the Constitution and Convention or otherwise implemented through established mechanisms.

⁵⁰ We note that while this NOI was in preparation *sua sponte*, a "Petition to Institute 'Notice of Inquiry' and, as Appropriate, Establish an Industry Advisory Committee In Preparation For the 1995 World Radiocommunication Conference" was filed by AMSC Subsidiary Corporation, COMSAT Corporation, Iridium, Inc., Loral-Qualcomm Satellite Services, Inc., Motorola, Inc., Orbital Communications Corporation, STARSYS Global Positioning, Inc., and TRW Inc. This NOI substantially responds to the request in that petition and the petition will be entered into the record in this proceeding.

⁵¹ We note that recently, NTIA, under the auspices of its Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC), has established a "Radio Conference Subcommittee" (RCS). The RCS will coordinate the views of federal agencies on future WRCs and present its own draft conference proposals. This group is expected to emphasize the interests of the Executive Branch in U.S. conference preparations. Coordination of RCS views with Commission views will be accomplished through participation of FCC staff in a liaison capacity.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Ex Parte Rules - Exempt Proceeding

45. Pursuant to Section 1.1204 (a) (4) of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR Section 1.1204 (a) (4), no ex parte restrictions apply to this proceeding.

Comment Dates

46. Pursuant to applicable procedures set forth in Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415 and 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before June 6, 1994, and reply comments on or before June 27, 1994. To file formally in this proceeding, you must file an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, and supporting comments. If you want each Commissioner to receive a personal copy of your comments, you must file an original plus nine copies. You should send comments and reply comments to Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. Comments and reply comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room 239, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20554.

Ordering Clause

47. Authority for issuance of this Notice of Inquiry is contained in Sections 4(i), 303(g), 303(r), and 332(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 303(g), 303(r), and 332(a).

Contact Person

48. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Damon C. Ladson, Office of International Communications, (202) 632-0935; or, Steve Sharkey, Office of Engineering and Technology, (202) 653-8151.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION


William F. Caton
Acting Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1: Excerpt from the Final Acts of the
World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1993)

RESOLUTION No. [COM4/1]

Agenda for the 1995 World Radiocommunication Conference

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1993),

considering

- a) Resolutions 8 and 9 of the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference, (Geneva, 1992);
- b) Article 13 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992) regarding the competence and scheduling of world radiocommunication conferences and Article 7 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992) regarding their agendas;
- c) the relevant resolutions and recommendations of previous world administrative radio conferences;
- d) the recent technological advances in the field of broadcasting,

recognizing

- a) that the work of the Voluntary Group of Experts (VGE) should be considered and implemented as quickly as possible, to ensure that future decisions of the Radiocommunication Sector are made within the framework of any new substance, structure or arrangement of the Radio Regulations;
- b) that activities related to implementation of the decisions of the World Administrative Radio Conference (Malaga-Torremolinos, 1992) concerning the mobile-satellite service (MSS) indicate that some of those decisions may require further consideration;
- c) that the provision of feeder links is an integral aspect of facilitating the use of the frequency bands allocated to the MSS,

recognizing further

- a) that there are a limited number of other issues which can be considered at the 1995 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-95) without affecting consideration of VGE and MSS issues;
- b) the need to maintain and protect other services to which the frequency bands to be considered by WRC-95 are also allocated,

resolves

to recommend to the Council that a world radiocommunication conference be held in Geneva in late 1995 for a period of four weeks, with the following agenda:

- 1. to review the final report of the VGE, and to consider related proposals from administrations, in order to undertake, as appropriate, a revision of the Radio Regulations and to provide a timetable for the implementation of outstanding recommended actions;

2. on the basis of proposals by administrations and the report from the Conference Preparatory Meeting:
 - 2.1 with a view to facilitating the use of frequency bands allocated to the mobile-satellite services and with due regard to existing services to which the frequency spectrum to be considered by the Conference is also allocated:
 - a) review the technical constraints associated with the frequency bands allocated below 3 GHz to mobile-satellite services and associated provisions, resolutions and recommendations;
 - b) review the date of entry into force of allocations in the bands 1 980 - 2 010 MHz and 2 170 - 2 200 MHz in Regions 1 and 3 and the bands 1 970 - 2 010 MHz and 2 160 - 2 200 MHz in Region 2;
 - c) consider allocations and regulatory aspects for feeder links for the mobile-satellite services taking account of the interference that may be caused to satellite systems in the geostationary-satellite orbit;
 - 2.2 to consider power limits for earth stations in the Earth exploration-satellite, space research, and space operation services in the band 2 025 - 2 110 MHz;
 - 2.3 to review Resolution No. 112 in the light of the results of studies carried out in application of that Resolution and take appropriate action;
3. to consider the following items, taking into account the work carried out by the study groups and the Conference Preparatory Meeting of the Radiocommunication Sector, with a view to WRC-97 taking action, as appropriate:
 - a) Appendices 30 and 30A for Regions 1 and 3 in response to Resolution No. 524 (WARC-92), and taking particular account of ~~resolves~~ 2 of that Resolution and with due regard to the advantage of taking into account, where practicable, the orbital arcs of Appendix 30B;
 - b) Resolution No. 712 (WARC-92);
 - c) the availability of the newly allocated HFBC bands;
 - d) requirements for the MSS and associated feeder links and, if necessary, adopt in 1995 limited allocations;
4. to consider such consequential changes and amendments to the Radio Regulations as may be necessitated by the decisions of the Conference;
5. in accordance with Resolution No. 94 (WARC-92), to review those resolutions and recommendations of world administrative radio conferences which are relevant to ~~resolves~~ 1 to 4 above with a view to their possible revision, replacement or abrogation;
6. in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992):
 - 6.1 to consider and approve the report of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau on the activities of the Radiocommunication Sector since the last conference;
 - 6.2 to recommend to the Council the agenda for the 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference, and to give its views on the preliminary agenda for the 1999 Conference and on possible agenda items for future conferences;
 - 6.3 to identify those items requiring priority action by the radiocommunication study groups.

invites administrations

when preparing and submitting their proposals to WRC-95 relating to the simplification of the Radio Regulations or to matters relating to the agenda contained in this Resolution, to base them as far as practicable on the recommended texts in the final report of the VGE,

invites the Council

to establish the agenda and make provision for WRC-95 and to initiate as soon as possible the necessary consultation with Members,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to make the necessary arrangements to convene meetings of the Conference Preparatory Meeting in accordance with decisions of the Radiocommunication Assembly, (Geneva, 1993), and to prepare a report to WRC-95,

instructs the Secretary-General

to communicate this Resolution to concerned international and regional organizations.