

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

June 20, 1975

The President:

I have the honor to submit to you, with a view to its transmission to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification, the Partial Revision of the Radio Regulations (Geneva 1959), with a Final Protocol signed on behalf of the United States at Geneva June 8, 1974, with a reservation.

The Partial Revision was adopted at the World Maritime Administrative Radio Conference, under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union held at Geneva April 22-June 8, 1974.

The texts of the Partial Revision, with Annexes, and the Final Protocol are contained in a bound volume, designated Final Acts, which also includes texts of a Partial Revision of the Additional Radio Regulations (Geneva 1959), to which the United States is not a party, and of resolutions and recommendations which do not require action with a view to ratification on the part of the United States.

The Radio Regulations (Geneva 1959) were transmitted to the Senate on June 9, 1960 (S. Exec. I, 86th Congress, 2d session) and, after ratification, came into force for the United States on October 23, 1961 (TIAS 4393, 12 UST 2377). The Radio Regulations were once previously

The President,

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revised with respect to the Maritime Mobile Service at Geneva November 3, 1967. Those revisions were submitted to the Senate (S. Exec. E, 90th Congress, 2d session) and, after ratification, entered into force for the United States April 1, 1969.

The Partial Revision submitted herewith further revises the 1959 Radio Regulation with respect to the Maritime Mobile Service. With one exception which is noted below, the Partial Revision is consistent with United States interests. Some of the specific provisions which were included in the Revision are summarized as follows:

1. Digital selective calling provisions were adopted, including two complements of frequencies and provisions whereby the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) will develop technical and operational details.

2. Thirty-seven new duplex radiotelephone channels were provided at the expense of telegraphy channels and by reducing channel spacing of existing telephony channels.

3. Provisions were made for operational use of narrow band direct printing telegraphy.

4. The Radio Regulations were modified to provide for on-board (intra-ship) radio communications and six radio frequencies were so designated.

5. Oceanographic data transmission provisions were retained unchanged.

6. The provisions for ship wideband facsimile and special transmission systems were retained.

7. An improved voice maritime distress system was adopted.

8. Technical parameters for maritime, single sideband, High Frequency transmitters were updated.

9. Maximum power limits were agreed for High Frequency ship and coast stations respectively.

10. Supplementary High Frequencies for distress purposes were agreed for use in various areas of the world, including in particular Mexico, Central America, South America, and the South Pacific.

11. An international distress, safety, and calling frequency for the maritime mobile Very High Frequency radiotelephone service was designated.

12. Provisions were made in the Radio Regulations for a new Ship Movement Service which will be the radio regulatory basis for operations of vessel traffic systems in the United States.

13. Several modifications were made to the Radio Regulations to provide for improved communications between ships and aircraft, particularly for on-scene search and rescue operations.

14. An entirely new A-1 Morse telegraphy calling system was adopted.

15. Minimum provisions to implement maritime satellites were adopted.

16. A new Radio Operators General Certificate was adopted.

The Final Protocol contains a United States reservation as follows:

"The Delegation of the United States of America formally declares that the United States of America does not, by signature of these Final Acts on its behalf, accept any obligation in respect of the Frequency Allotment Plan for Coast Radiotelephone Stations Operating in the Exclusive Maritime Mobile Bands between 4000 kHz and 23000 kHz and the associated implementing procedures, and that, although the United States of America will observe the provisions of the Plan and implementing procedures to the extent practicable, pending the results of a future World General Administrative Radio Conference, the United States of America reserves its right to take such measures as may be necessary to protect its maritime radiotelephony interests."

This reservation was made because the frequency allotment plan, from the United States viewpoint, created impractical sharing arrangements both within United States allotments and externally. Due to the multitude of allotments (up to 36 countries) on each channel, the elimination of use priorities, the adoption of unworkable implementation procedures, and the authority given to the International Frequency Registration Board to make allotments on an arbitrary basis, the revised allotment plan and its associated procedures were felt to be incompatible with the official and public correspondence needs of the United States.

The Partial Revision will come into force on January 1, 1976 for Governments which, by that date, have

notified the Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union of their approval thereof.

As has previously been the case with revisions of the Radio Regulations, the Department of State, the Federal Communications Commission, and your Director of Telecommunication Policy concur in recommending that the Partial Revision and Final Protocol submitted herewith be transmitted to the Senate for its consideration and approval at an early date.

Respectfully submitted:

*Robert A. Lyerall*