

Appendix B: U.S. Public/Private Aid Related Telecom Programs **B**

Executive Summary from the publication: “U.S. Government, Private Sector, Non-Profit, and Academic Contributions to Communications Development,” Information Infrastructure Task Force, March, 1994.

The United States has a long tradition of supporting international communications development as a means for sustained economic growth and improvement of health, environment, and welfare. Our support for communications development comes from a variety of sources—the U.S. Government, the private sector, non-profit organizations and academic institutions. The U.S. Government has committed substantial financial resources to international communications development in the form of export credits and guarantees, loans and investment guarantees, grants, training services and feasibility studies. The U.S. private sector has contributed new technology, financial and other resources for training programs and technical assistance, as well as substantial product and service expertise. In addition, U.S. non-profit and academic institutions have lent support to international communications development needs through training and exchange programs, grants, fellowships and relief services.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

A wide range of U.S. Government agencies, from the Department of Commerce to the Federal Aviation Administration in the Department of Transportation, contribute to international communications development. Highlights of these contributions include the activities of the U.S. Agency for International Development, which in 1993 expended almost \$34 million on telecommunications training, technical assistance, and infrastructure. In addition, between 1991 and 1993, the Export-Import Bank’s loans and guarantees in the telecommunications sector totaled \$1,854,976,535 excluding insurance authorizations, which totaled approximately \$400 million. In Fiscal Years 1988 through 1993, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation provided \$434,030,732 in political risk insurance and \$195,650,000 in financing through direct loans and/or loan guarantees to developing countries. Another important contributor is the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, which committed \$8 million of its budget toward communications development projects for 1994.

There also are a number of U.S. Government agencies which provide assistance to developing countries, not only through financial resources, but through critical training, studies, and other

services. For example, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, under the Protocol on Cooperation in the Field of Telecommunications Science and Technology between the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC) has engaged with China in cooperative studies and other activities in radio frequency spectrum management and disaster communications. Technical exchanges were the primary activities under the Protocol in 1993 and 1994, such as an exchange with spectrum management officials from the Chinese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in March 1994. NTIA is expected to lead a delegation of experts in disaster communications to the PRC in late 1994 or 1995. In addition, the Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. Government agency which regulates communications activities in the United States provides specialized training and technical assistance bilaterally, as well as through the International Telecommunication Union and the United States Telecommunication Training Institute (USTTI). This year, the FCC will conduct courses on Spectrum Management in the Civil Sector, Radio Spectrum Monitoring and Measuring, and Radio Spectrum Monitoring Techniques and Procedures for USTTI.

One of the U.S. Department of State's objectives is to promote expansion of the economic and social benefits of the communications and information revolution to developing countries. Through the Bureau for International Communications and Information Policy (CIP), numerous organizations have received grant funds for development activities, totaling about \$250,000 per year. Organizations which have been recent recipients of such funds include the International Telecommunication Union, the Inter-American Telecommunications Conference (CITEL), the Black College Satellite Network, the Trans-Atlantic Dialogue on European Broadcasting, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the United States Telecommunications Training Institute. CIP also administers programs for telecommunications development

assistance to countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union under Inter-agency Agreements with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The CEE program has been funded at about \$3 million over four years, and the NIS program is funded in the current fiscal year at \$365,000.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is another U.S. government agency affecting international telecommunications development. With private sector assistance, NSF has vastly enhanced the global connectivity of information networks, including implementing or expanding links to networks in Europe, Latin America, Pacific Asia, and Russia and other Newly Independent States. NSF also provides support to U.S. scientists and engineers to enable them to collaborate with colleagues in other countries around the world. The United States Information Agency (USIA) also contributes substantial resources in the area of communications development. It spends more than \$100 million annually on communications development activities providing overseas information, education, and cultural affairs programs, including the Voice of America, the WORLDNET satellite television network and educational and cultural exchanges.

U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR

U.S. private sector activities include contributions of companies such as the Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT), MCI, Motorola, NYNEX, Southwestern Bell, and from organizations representing groups of companies, such as the Telecommunications Industry Association. Contributions of these entities frequently involve conducting training courses and participation in conferences. For example, COMSAT funds a major part of INTELSAT's \$500,000 annual International Assistance and Development Program and has trained over 190 United States Telecommunications Training Institute participants at its corporate facilities in the United States. In addition, Motorola's Government Relations Office, which is divided into regions

and has offices around the world, has offered seminars to developing countries on effective spectrum management practices. The Telecommunications Industry Association, with a number of U.S. companies, for the past four years has cosponsored the Southeast Asia Telecommunications Conference, as well as the first Latin American Telecommunications Summit. Both of these conferences provided an opportunity for Ministerial level officials from the regions to meet with senior representatives from U.S. companies and U.S. Government officials.

U.S. NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ASSISTANCE

U.S. non-profit organizations also have made substantial contributions to international communications development. For example, both the public and private sectors in the United States support the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI). USTTI is a non-profit, joint industry-government initiative that encourages communications and technological advances on a global basis by providing free training courses for qualified men and women from developing countries. Over 3,000 officials from 136 countries have attended USTTI courses—with over 800 of these being supported by U.S. Agency for International Development funding. In 1993, the USTTI's sponsors contributed a total of \$4,829,647 in cash and in-kind contributions to the USTTI.

Another example of U.S. non-profit organization assistance is the work of the Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA). VITA's 5,000 volunteers, located in over 100 countries, have responded to more than 200,000 requests from around the world for technical information about

a variety of developmental issues. VITA has published more than 200 manuals and technical papers on specific technologies and developmental issues and publishes an electronic newsletter on international development, DevelopNet News, which is distributed through BITNET and Internet. In addition, over the past decade, VITA has implemented more than \$50 million in major projects that have built VITA's capacity to ensure effective and cost-efficient project implementation. Furthermore, VITA has been granted an experimental license to operate a data-only low earth orbit satellite system, a little LEO system.

U.S. ACADEMIC PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

Academic organizations such as the American Society for Newspaper Editors (ASNE) also have made substantial contributions to communications development. ASNE, an organization of approximately 900 newspaper editors in the United States, sponsors an International Exchange Program to bring journalists from around the world to the United States for six weeks of study and work. In 1993, the Exchange Program exclusively solicited applicants from the editors' ranks in developing countries, including the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe, and other countries in transition. Another academic program, the World Press Freedom Committee, a non-profit, U.S.-based private coordination group of U.S. and international media organizations, has made 150 grants, totaling approximately \$1 million, since 1977 to aid news media and journalism schools in the developing world, Central and Western Europe, and the former Soviet Union.