

DX LISTENING

By Don Jensen

United Nations Radio

At the end of World War II, the nations of the world, striving to keep the peace that had just been won, banded together to form a global organization that would work to that purpose. After the delegates voted to locate their headquarters in the United

tions Radio on shortwave ranked among the major international broadcasters. Its impact was due to the fact that most of the UN broadcasts were aired on the powerful transmitters of the *Voice of America*.

Then, in the mid-1980's, that convenient arrangement broke down. A dispute arose over the leasing of air time on the U.S. government's shortwave facilities. The UN and the VOA came to a parting of the ways. United Nations Radio, of course, did not vanish from the airwaves. Its transcribed programming, in 18 languages and still originating from its New York studios, were, and are, broadcast by local stations in as many as 140 countries.

But on shortwave it was reduced to broadcasting a mere handful of programs via two or three shortwave stations elsewhere in the world. It's not surprising that shortwave DX'ers, returning to listen after an absence of a few years, simply assumed that UN Radio died! It was hard to find its programming.

Things have improved somewhat for United Nations Radio in the 1990's, although the international organization still does not have the on-air shortwave presence of days gone by when their programs were being relayed by VOA transmitters.

Here are some of the broadcasters scheduled to broadcast UN Radio programming on shortwave:

BHUTAN—*Bhutan Broadcasting Service*, English programming to Asia, Mondays, 1630 to 1645 UTC; and

Thursdays, 1430 to 1445 UTC, on 5,025 kHz. This is a tough, but possible catch for West Coast North American SWL's.

CHINA—*Radio Beijing*, Chinese-language programs to Northeast and Southeast Asia, Wednesdays, 0900 UTC on 9,590, 9,945, and 15,165 kHz.

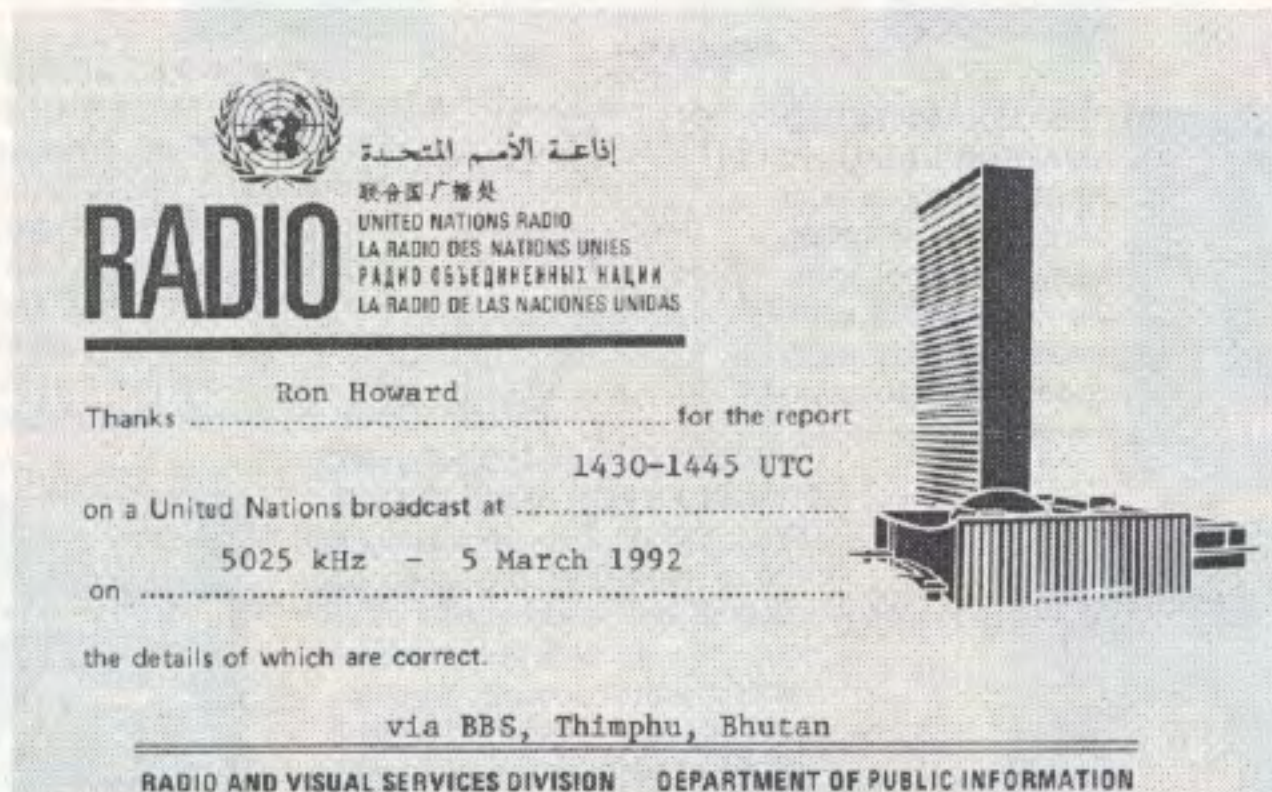
COSTA RICA—*Radio for Peace International*, English-language programs to North and Latin America, Monday through Friday at 2150 to 2200 UTC; Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 2100 to 2115 UTC; Monday and Sunday, 1845 to 1900 UTC; and Saturday and Sunday, 2330 to 2345 UTC, on 7,375, 13,630, 15,030 and 21,465 kHz. For most U.S. and Canadian SWL's, this is your best shot for UN Radio programming in English.

In addition, the UN's *UNESCO Radio* English programs can be heard on Radio for Peace International on the same frequencies, Monday and Thursdays, 2330 to 2345 UTC, Tuesdays, 2100 to 2115 UTC, and Thursdays, 2000 to 2030 UTC.

EGYPT—*Radio Cairo*, Arabic-language programs to the Middle East and North Africa, Sundays at 1645 UTC, on 9,700 and 11,665 kHz.

INDIA—*All India Radio*, UN programming in the Bangla language, Saturdays, 1650 to 1705 UTC on 4,820 kHz. This one is also possible in West Coast North America.

ITALY—*Italian Radio Relay Service*, UN Radio English programs, Mondays through Fridays at 0730 UTC; Saturdays at 1330 UTC; Sundays at 0730 and 1700 UTC,



United Nations Radio replies with this attractive QSL card, showing the impressive UN building in Manhattan, to those SWL's sending correct reception reports of its broadcasts.

States, John D. Rockefeller Jr. gave the UN \$8.5 million to buy the site for its headquarters, an 18-acre plaza along the East River, between Manhattan's 42nd and 48th Streets. Forty years ago, the 39-story United Nations Building was completed in New York City, becoming an impressive part of Manhattan's skyline and giving the international organization its permanent home.

Early in its history, the United Nations established a broadcasting service, today called the "Radio and Visual Services Division," whose purpose was to bring UN programming to its member nations and their people around the world.

For many years, longtime SWL's will recall, *United Na-*

on 7,105, 7,125, or 9,815 kHz. This is the best opportunity for European SWLs.

SIERRA LEONE—*Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service*, programming in English to Africa, Fridays, 2115 to 2130 UTC, and Sundays, 1900 to 1915 and 2115 to 2130 UTC, on 3,316 kHz.

Listeners' reception reports of these programs will be verified by QSL cards. Reports should be sent to United Nations Radio, S-850A, New York, NY 10017.

In addition, UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) creates its own programming in five languages from its production facilities in Paris. In addition to Radio for Peace (mentioned previously, UNESCO's English programming can be heard on Saturdays from All India Radio at 1346 UTC on 9,565, 11,760, and 11,810 kHz, and at 1930 UTC on 15,110 kHz. On Sundays, a program is aired by Radio Cairo at 2030 UTC on 15,335 kHz.

Reports on UNESCO broadcasts should be sent to UNESCO Radio, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75007, Paris, France.

Thanks to Ron Howard of Carmel, CA, for forwarding the UN Radio schedule.

IN THE MAIL

We start off this month's mail call with a query from Earle Francoise, New Orleans, LA.

Asks Earle: "While I do have an outdoor antenna for my SW radio, I'm not really happy with it. I think I could be doing better than I am, and I would like to experiment with various types of aeriels. Any ideas?"

I think you might find some help, Earle, in a book by veteran Canadian ham radioman, Frank P. Hughes, VE3DBQ. It's called, appropriately enough, *Easy*

Shortwave Antennas. The book includes descriptions of more than 50 different antennas, from simple long-wires to cubical quads, with some designs for apartment dwellers and those who are limited to indoor antennas as well. It is available from Tiare Publications, P.O. Box 493, Lake Geneva, WI 53147, for \$9.95, plus \$2 shipping/handling.

Here's an interesting note from Brad Wilson, Key West FL. "I like to look for off-beat SWL'ing. The other day, I got to thinking about a shortwave station in Alaska, which seems to be about as far away as you can get from the Florida Keys and still be in the U.S.A. (Is Hawaii further? I don't know, but I'm more intrigued by the idea of tuning in an Alaskan station.) What, when, and where will accomplish my quest?"

Setting unusual listening challenges for yourself can be a lot of fun. What's the northernmost SW station you can log? The furthest south? How about working your way through the SW alphabet from Argentina to Zambia? (I'll give you a pass on W and X!) Any of the rest of you into this sort of SWL kick? If so, let me know about it.

Now, to Brad's question. KNLS, the "New Life Station" owned by the World Christian Broadcasting Corporation, should fit the bill. It's located at Anchor Point, Alaska, broadcasting on shortwave with a 100-kilowatt transmitter. English-language programming from that religious station

*Credits: Adie Durden, GA; Ron Howard, CA; Hans Johnson, MD; Marie Lamb, NY; Harold Levison, Rev. Ed Poston, IA; World DX Club, C/O Rich D'Angelo, 2216 Burkey Drive, Wyomissing PA 19610; North American SW Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown PA 19057.

can be heard between 0800 and 0900 UTC on 7,365 kHz, or from 1300 to 1400 UTC on 11,580 kHz. Reception reports can be sent to the station at Box 473, Anchor Point, Alaska, 99556.

But just in case Hawaii is further from Key West than Anchor Point, Brad, *World Harvest Radio*, which presently operates shortwaver WHRI from transmitters at Noblesville, IN, has announced that it plans to open a second SW outlet in Hawaii, using a 100-kilowatt Harris transmitter.

In the meantime, of course, Hawaii is represented on shortwave by the time-ticker, WWVH, on 2,500, 5,000, 10,000, and 15,000 kHz, sharing frequencies with WWV in Colorado.

TIME TO TUNE

Let's take a look around

the world for interesting shortwave targets.

AUSTRIA—13,730 kHz. *Radio Austria International* features English at 0130 UTC, with interval signal, identification, news, and weather.

GUYANA—5,950 kHz. The *Voice of Guyana* is not easily heard, but you might try for it at around 0915 UTC, listening for English-language programming and East Indian music.

KENYA—4,935 kHz. *Kenya Broadcasting Corp.* has an English-language transmission during our evening hours. Look for this one with "3-plus-1" time signals at 0300 UTC, followed by a station identification and a newscast.

SWITZERLAND—21,770 kHz. *Swiss Radio International* has English news and commentary on this channel at 1700 UTC. ■



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