

ANDEX



INTERNATIONAL

Vol. 2, No. 1

January 1975

OAS QUITO CONFERENCE



OAS Meeting in Session

For a few days during the early part of November, 1974, some shortwave listeners may have wondered why they couldn't hear all of the regular programs from HCJB. It was during these days, November 8th through 12th, that the Organization of American States held a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the member countries here in Quito. HCJB was asked to serve as the official radio voice for these meetings.

In order to provide complete coverage to North and South America, six frequencies were dedicated to the transmission of all public meetings. Two shortwave frequencies were beamed to the south, two to the north and two others -- 690 kHz and 6.050 MHz -- provided local coverage. Since HCJB operates seven transmitters, this left only one for normal programming which required us to cut back drastically on our regular schedule. The exact shortwave frequencies used for these special broadcasts depended upon the area being reached and the time of the sessions.

Four official languages were used during the conference: Spanish, Portuguese, French and English. Simultaneous translations were provided so that all four languages were available to all delegates. These were broadcast by small fm transmitters and picked up on portable receivers carried by each delegate. Each receiver could be tuned to the

ANDEX ANNIVERSARY

With this issue of ANDEX International we celebrate the first anniversary of our Club! We have been very encouraged by the gratifying response to the formation of the Andes DXers International Club by DXers in all parts of the world. As we start our second year we have reached a membership of well over 1,200. Our members come from 45 countries on six continents. We want to thank each and every member for your interest and help in getting ANDEX off to such a good start. We trust the second year will be even better!

language desired. HCJB, with equipment installed in a small radio booth, picked up the Spanish version and fed it to our radio studios by special telephone line. A second telephone line provided communications between the studio and the Legislative Palace, where the conference was held, as well as providing a back-up program line in case of emergency. The OAS provided an official announcer to help with the broadcasts.

Most of the HCJB engineers working in Quito were involved in the special transmissions in one way or another. During the five days of the conference some 20 hours of broadcasting were carried live from the assembly hall. In addition to many rebroadcasts by stations throughout the Americas, the HCJB transmissions were picked up by the OAS Radio in Washington. Recordings of the sessions were edited by the OAS Radio and a synthesis of the day's activities was broadcast by them each evening to all of Latin America. This provided excellent coverage for all interested in the proceedings.

There were representatives from several other radio organizations present at the conference, including Radio Denmark, Radio Japan and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The CBC personnel used HCJB studio facilities to edit their

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NEW TIME SYSTEM



Something has been changed at HCJB! Regular listeners to our programs will certainly have noticed that a change has recently been made in our half-hourly time signal. It has a new and different sound.

No one seems to remember exactly when HCJB started using the Morse code symbol for the letter "V" as a time signal on the hour and half-hour. It was sometime around the end of World War II. The National Observatory in Quito requested that HCJB provide a time standard for the country since we were the one station that was heard well throughout the entire republic. This we were glad to do. The National Observatory provided HCJB with a small chronometer to serve as our standard. This was checked at least once a day against the time signals broadcast by WWV or WWVH in the United States, to insure that our time would be accurate to within one second. Toward the end of World War II, the symbol "V for Victory" was very popular. Sir Winston Churchill was famous for the way he would raise his hand with two fingers spread in the form of a "V".

The Morse code symbol for "V" was found to be ideal for our time signal; three dots as a warning followed by one long dash to mark the hour. It also fit perfectly into the "V for Victory" spirit of the times. For a number of years the time signals were given manually by the operator on duty. This accounted for the fact that they were sometimes a bit unreliable or absent if the operator was not on his toes.

ANDEX International --

is the official publication of Andes DXers International, a DX Club operated in conjunction with DX Party Line broadcast over Radio Station HCJB and sponsored by The World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Inc. It is mailed monthly to all members.

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After several years the National Observatory requested the return of their chronometer, so HCJB ordered a new one from the Ulysse Nardin factory in Switzerland, one of the leading manufacturers of marine chronometers in the world. This was ordered with special electrical contacts installed at the factory to give the "V" time signal which has been familiar to shortwave listeners around the world. This chronometer was tied into an electronic circuit to automatically transmit the time signal each half-hour as well as to synchronize all the clocks in the studio building. It has served effectively and efficiently for many years, and a daily check with WWV or WWVH has kept it very accurate.

However, as a part of our Program Automatic Control System, or PACS (described in the September, 1974, issue of ANDEX International), the HCJB Engineering Department recently built and put into operation an electronic clock. About two months ago this new clock took over the job of putting the time signals on the air and synchronizing the studio clocks. This electronic clock never has to be wound and operates automatically on batteries in case of power failures. It also provides a digital readout of the correct time to the second which can be made available in any studio or control room as needed. The time signal as provided by this new system is a more accurate "V" than had been used in the past. The chronometer contacts had too long a pause between the three dots and the dash. The new time signal sounds different but is an exact Morse "V". This is the new sound of the HCJB time signal which will be heard around the world in coming months and years.

HCJB QSL CONTEST

As mentioned in the last issue of ANDEX International, we are conducting a contest to see who has or can locate the oldest HCJB QSL cards. All entries must reach us in Quito by March 31, 1975. If you don't have any old HCJB QSL cards yourself, check with your friends or neighbors or anyone you know to be an oldtimer at DXing.

If you have an old QSL card from HCJB or find one that someone else has received, don't send us the card but let us know that you have a card to enter and tell us the date of the reception verified on the card. Only if you are a winner will we ask to actually see the card or a photostatic copy of it.

HIGHWAY SIGNS



Bert Shire and Kangaroo Sign

Recently we received this interesting picture from Albert Shire of Tumby Bay, South Australia. Bert is ANDEX member No. 101 and was selected as "DXer of the Month" for April, 1974. If you have an unusual sign from your location, why not send us a picture and your description of it. Bert has the following to say about the signs in Australia.

"All over Australia are signs warning motorists of this and that danger lying ahead. 'Speed 45 miles per hour', 'Slippery when wet', 'Curves for the next two miles', 'Speed 25 miles per hour', etc., etc. One of the most unique signs, perhaps, in the whole world is the one with the painted figure of a kangaroo on it, and the warning, 'For the next 25 miles', 'For the next 40 miles', or even 'For the next 100 miles'. In Australia some towns can be that far apart. Kangaroos can hop at a great speed and come out of the scrub or bushland without a word of warning. They also have a nasty habit of stopping in the middle of the road and taking a look around. Hence the warning of kangaroos for the next so many miles.

"To hit a kangaroo at 60 or 70 miles per hour would be like hitting a block of cement and can cause a lot of damage to both car and occupants. One can imagine what that would mean 40 or 50 miles from a town. I can well remember in the earlier days of motoring when cars travelled 20 to 30 miles per hour and had celluloid side curtains, instances of kangaroos actually hopping into the back seat. Then there would be a frantic scramble on the part of both the kangaroo and the occupants to get out of the car as quickly as possible. A kangaroo is normally a docile animal but can also be dangerous when cornered. It can stand on its

tail and rip its aggressor to shreds with a very sharp claw it has on its hind feet. Many a kangaroo dog has suffered this fate. So -- warnings have been put on the road that we may be able to read the signs and take heed of them.

"The Bible, which is God's book through which He speaks to men, is full of warning signs. It is not a case of 'you must do this or that.' In God's love He has put them there that we may not hurt ourselves or even kill ourselves spiritually. He loves us as a father loves his children. If we go on the road of life not heeding His warnings, we cannot blame Him -- only ourselves. For God so loved us that He gave His only Son to die on the cross so that we need not perish but can have Everlasting Life."

As we start a new year in our lives, it is a good time to heed Bert's suggestion and take a look at the warning signs God has given us in His Word, the Bible. If we want 1975 to be all it should be, let us resolve right at the start to study God's Word and follow the instructions He has given us for a happy and successful life.

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
TO EACH ANDEX MEMBER!

DXing HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Cec Taylor lives in Blackpool, on the Irish Sea, in Western England. One of the features of this resort town is a 500 foot metal tower built on the order of the famous Eiffel Tower in Paris. Cec considers the following experience to be the highlight of his DXing activities.

"Some months ago I was given a one valve - single stage shortwave receiver. This is powered by two dry batteries and must be used with earphones only. On receiving local and European stations it worked very well, but I could never get any long haul DX. I blamed it on my antenna, a vertical at 25 feet.

"While I was pondering on my antenna problem, I remembered that we had a War Department Radio Station on top of our tower during World War II. So I decided to try it out on my one-valver. Going armed with a flask of coffee and my receiver, I paid my 30¢ fee and shot to the top of my 500 foot 'antenna'. I used a 3 foot car antenna connected to my one-valver. I gave it a warm-up for a

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DXer OF THE MONTH



Charles A. Wootten - ANDEX No. 139

On Bastille Day, July 14, 1972, our "DXer of the Month," Charles A. Wootten, began for the first time to be active in the shortwave hobby. His first station heard and QSL'd was ORTF, Paris, France. HCJB in Ecuador was the 32nd country heard. Charles began this exciting hobby while stationed in Morocco, North Africa. As he is a Radioman in the U. S. Navy, he is able to bring his electronics expertise and familiarity with high frequency communications into the realm of DXing.

His first receiver was a Zenith Transoceanic, but he has since added four more radios to his shack. Shown in the picture is the Zenith, an SRR-13 and an R-390. The fourth receiver is a Blaupunkt Virginia 2530, made in Germany, and it sits in the living room for use by the family and visitors. A fifth receiver, a Heathkit GR-78, is currently installed in the family car so that some shortwave listening can be done on the highway. Antennas include a Joystick/Joymatcg ensemble, a 50 foot longwire, and a 100 foot dipole. Other equipment includes a Gilfer A-20 preselector and a Sony cassette recorder.

In January, 1974, Charles was elected Chairman of the Frequency Recommendation Committee of ANARC (Association of North American Radio Clubs) and is attempting to bring international broadcasters and DXers together in the very difficult realm of frequency management. He is a member of several radio clubs, including the North American Short Wave Association, the American Short Wave Listener's Club, SPEEDX, the Danish Short Wave Clubs International, and various station sponsored clubs such as ANDEX, BBC World Radio Club, Radio Canada's SW Club and several others. He was recently awarded the DX Centurian Award

by NASWA and has been asked to serve as Technical Editor for the DSWCI bulletin, "Short Wave News." DX news items from Charles Wootten are often heard on the DX Party Line from HCJB.

Charles, with his wife and daughter, currently resides in Bethesda, Maryland, in the United States. The other members of his family do not appreciate DXing. In fact, his wife was quoted in a newspaper published at the military base in Morocco as saying that she is seriously considering suing all manufacturers of shortwave radios for alienation of affections. In the meantime, Charles continues to do an outstanding job in his DXing hobby, and we congratulate him for being chosen "DXer of the Month" for January, 1975.

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recordings of the meetings and make up the programs they sent to Canada. In order to provide even better reception of the speech of the Foreign Minister of Venezuela for the National Radio of Venezuela, this was also relayed to them by satellite telephone link.

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half-hour and then got to work. I received first Radio Budapest followed by Spain, Switzerland, Voice of America, Radio Cairo, Radio RSA and last HCJB (although I did not hear a definite identification). Reception report enclosed."

I wonder how many other DXers can report the use of a 500 foot vertical antenna? Not only that, but Cec was working off the top of the antenna rather than the bottom! Cec sent along a colored postcard showing his unusual antenna.

Listen to DX Party Line and invite your friends to tune in. Heard 3 times each week on HCJB.

For South Pacific: Monday-Thursday-Saturday

0930 GMT 31 m - 9.745 mHz
49 m - 6.130 mHz

For Europe: Monday-Thursday-Saturday

0930 GMT 25 m - 11.915 mHz
1930 GMT 16 m - 17.705 mHz
19 m - 15.300 mHz

For North America: Tuesday-Thursday-Sunday
(Monday-Wednesday-Saturday 9:30 PM EST)

0230 GMT 25 m - 11.915 mHz
31 m - 9.560 mHz
49 m - 5.970 mHz