## Senegal in QSLs

by Jerry Berg, jsberg@rcn.com

Radio Senegal has been a good verifier over the years, and has issued many nice-looking QSLs. Here is a selection of them, together with some station history.

#### 1940s

Senegal had been a French colony since the mid-1800s, and was under French rule on September 3, 1939, when France declared war on Germany following the latter's attack on Poland two days earlier. Around that time it was rumored in the shortwave press that a 10 kw. station was being built in Dakar.

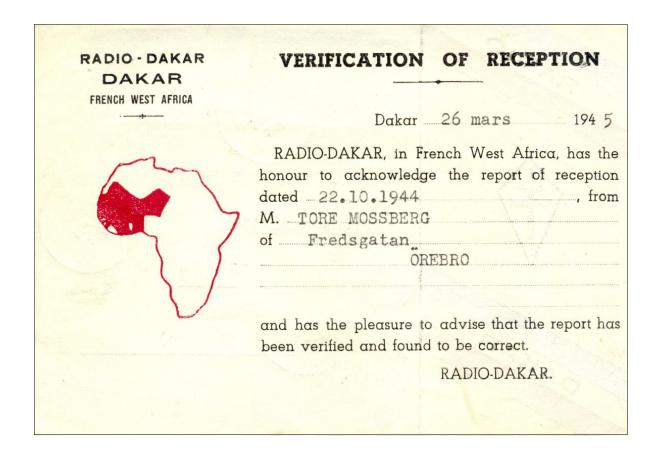
Radio Dakar was first reported heard in October 1940. Germany's invasion of France in June of that year had put the country under effective Nazi control via the collaborationist government of Marshal Philippe Pétain, headquartered in Vichy. Unlike French Equatorial Africa, which mostly supported the Free French forces, the states of French West Africa, including Senegal, declared in favor of Vichy. As a result, when Radio Dakar hit the airwaves it was under Vichy control, and would remain so until November 1942, when Allied forces invaded North Africa and F.W.A. switched its allegiance to the Free French. (Dakar was the capital of F.W.A., or "A.O.F.," Afrique Occidentale Francaise.)

At the start, Radio Dakar was heard around 1930-2030 and 2300-2400 UTC (it was "GMT" in those days), on approximately 9380 kHz., announcing "Allo. Allo. Ici Radio Dakar." Frequency varied a bit, but the station soon settled on 9410, with a regular program being heard at 2025-2120 UTC. Power was reportedly 12.5 kw., and while the call letters were at the outset said to be FGA, the WRTH and FBIS would show them to be FHE2, FHE3, etc., or FZK2, FZK3, etc.

During the decade, numerous other frequencies were reported in use from time to time, including 6435, 6917, 7210, 8220, 8840, 9678, 9870, 9930, 11410, 11712, 13355, 15345, and 15830 kHz., and channels could vary quite a bit. The frequencies suggest that some of the transmitters were in the point-to-point service (perhaps the source of the FGA call letters), and had been repurposed for broadcasting. Reported power varied, depending on the channel: 12 kw., 1 kw., 200-500 watts.

In the United States, the station was often heard during a morning program circa o800-0900 EST, and an afternoon transmission circa 1430-1730 EST. Said one NNRCer, "Radio Dakar, Senegal, has the strongest signal on this band [15345] at 4 P.M." Programming was mainly in French, but during the war, once Dakar was in Free French hands, there was some English programming for "United Nations" (Allied) forces.

The QSL on pg. 2 was for wartime reception, and was mailed during the war (which ended in Europe in May 1945). The card on pg. 3 is not a QSL but a Radio Dakar schedule, from 1948. Note that the shortwave frequency is shown as 11712 kHz.





# RADIO-DAKAR

# Le poste fédéral de l'A.O.F.

et sur 25m6I (II.7I2 kc) et sur 208m. (I.440 kc)

SEMAINE, et DIMANCHES : de 7 heures à 7 h. 30 SEMAINE, : 12 h. 15 à 13 h. 30 - DIMANCHES : 11 heures à 14 heures SEMAINE: 18 h. 30 à 22 heures (Samedi: 23 heures) - DIMANCHES: 18 heures à 23 heures

et vous invite à écouter ses émissions du...

LUNDI: Soit « LE FEUILLETON », soit « LE GRENIER DE MON ONCLE », à 20 h. 30 et « L'HISTOIRE DE LA MUSIQUE », à 21 heures.

MARDI: MUSIQUE DE CHAMBRE, à 20 heures. — MUSIQUE DE DANSE, à 21 heures.

MERCREDI: Soit « THEATRE SANS RIDEAU » (Comédies), soit « THEATRE LYRIQUE »,
à 21 heures.

JEUDI: EMISSION ENFANTINE, à 19 heures. — « VOTRE DISQUE », à 20 heures. — MUSIQUE DE DANSE, à 21 heures.

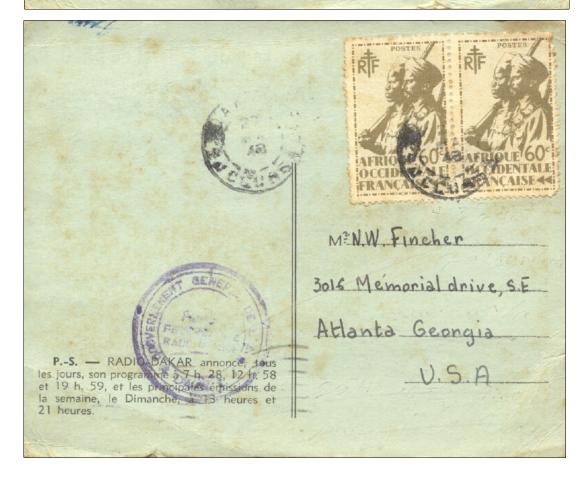
VENDREDI: « ESCALES », à 20 heures. — GRAND CONCERT SYMPHONIQUE, à 20 h. 45.

SAMEDI: LES NOUVEAUTES DU DISQUE, à 20 heures. — LE MAGAZINE DE PARIS, à 20 h. 30. — « LE CABARET DU BAOBAB », à 21 heures. — LE « NIGHT-CLUB », à 22 heures.

DIMANCHE: LA DEMT-HEURE DES AMATEURS, à 12 h. 30. — Soit « Le BAL », soit « LE CAFE CHANTANT », à 21 heures. — Le « NIGHT-CLUB », à 22 heures.

et ses CHRONIQUES :

LA SCIENCE ET L'HOMME: Jeudy 19 h. 30 — VIES CELEPRES ET VIES IGNOREES: Jeudi, 20 h. 45. — VOYAGE AU TEMPS PASSE: Vendredi, 20 h. 30, et LE COURRIER DES AUDITEURS: Dimanche, 20 heures.

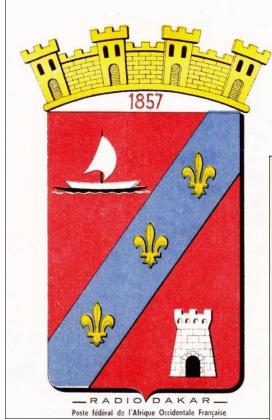


#### 1950s

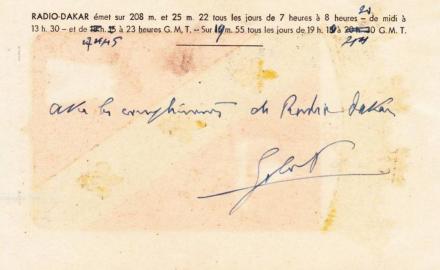
Dakar frequencies stabilized during the 50s. In 1950, English news could be heard at 1900 UTC on 11895 kHz., a 25 kw. channel that would be heard well during the entire decade. Later, 4950 kHz. (4 kw.) was widely heard, and 9560 was also good.

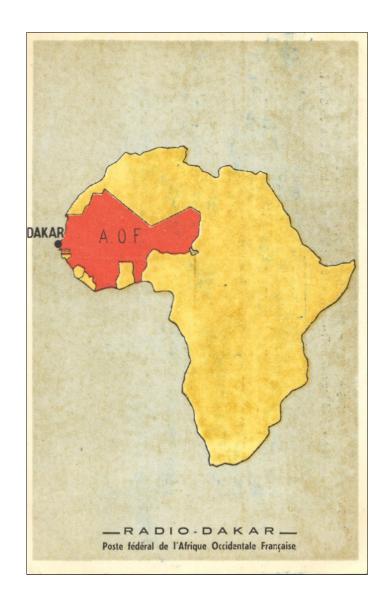
Most of the countries of French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa were moving toward independence from France. In 1956, to support the development of broadcasting in what were soon to be the *former* French colonies, France established the Société de Radiodiffusion de la France d'Outre-Mer, or SORAFOM. Senegal and many other states of the French community joined, and soon DXers began receiving "SORAFOM" QSL cards (see pg. 7). The year 1956 also saw the start of a regular, if minuscule, "foreign service," with 15 minutes each in English and Portuguese.

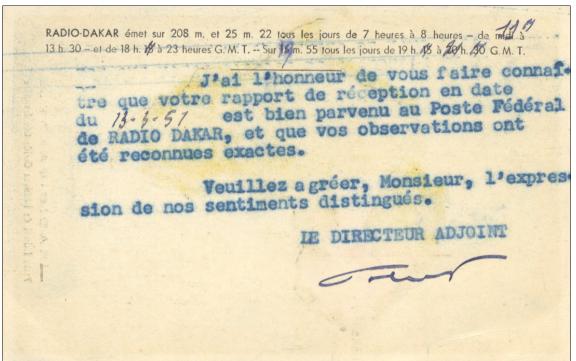
Bordering Senegal was another state of French West Africa, Mauritania. Radio Mauritanie would begin operating from a transmitter in Nouakchott, the country's new capital, circa 1962. However, when the station first came on shortwave late in 1957, it was transmitted from facilities in Saint-Louis, Senegal on 4855 kHz., 4 kw. It was heard by many DXers (see pg. 8).



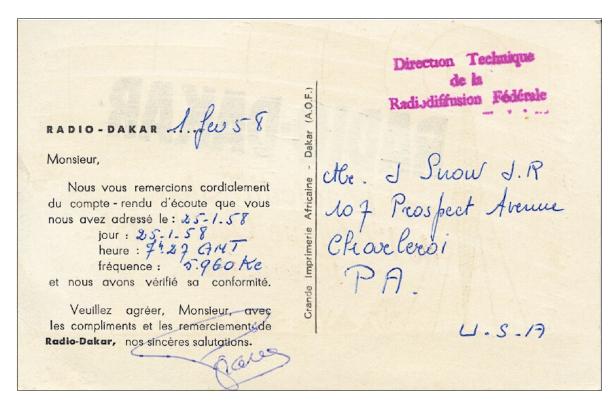
Early 1950s

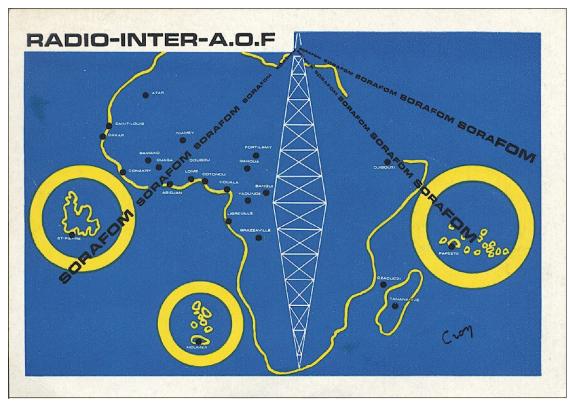












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Radio-Inter-A.OF. was a Dakar home service. For a time it called itself Radio-Mali-A.O.F., and issued QSLs in that name.

## RECEPTION-REPORT VERIFICATION

From Radio-Mauritanie Station of Saint-Louis

	Date _ 6 mai1960
M. ROGER LEGGE	
233 Springvale Ave	
McLean - VIRGINIA	
This letter is confirming tha	t radio-listener M. ROGER LEGGE
	eception report is hereby verified.
Date of reception : 19 MARS	
	to 23.46 GMT = to local time
Frequency reported: 4855	
	AINT-LOUIS (Sénégal) power : 4 kW
Titles of programmes heard :	
	lowing frequencies on shortwave :
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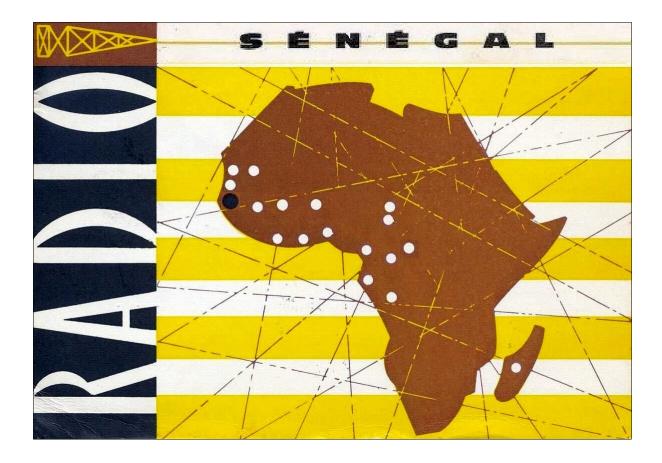
#### 1960s

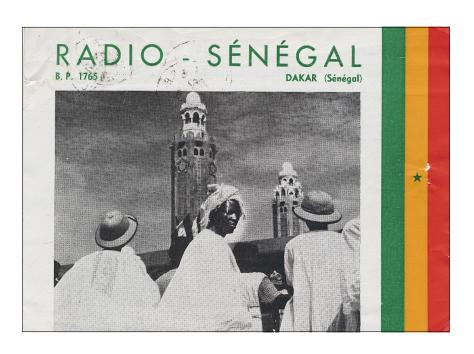
Radio Senegal stepped up its on air presence in 1960 with the introduction of a 100 kw. transmitter. The station was now on the air until 2300 UTC, and English could be heard around 2030 on 11895 and 15385 kHz.

The summer of 1960 saw Senegal and neighboring French Sudan join together as the Federation of Mali, whereupon Dakar started announcing as Radio Mali. The marriage lasted but two months, however, and use of the Radio Senegal name then resumed (and French Sudan became the Republic of Mali).

In 1962, SORAFOM was replaced by OCORA, Office de Coopération Radiophonique, which issued a new QSL-card (below) to replace the SORAFOM card.

Also in 1962, a Senegal regional station opened in Ziguinchor. The frequency on which it usually was heard was 3336 kHz., 4 kw. (see pg. 13).





#### COUP D'ŒIL SUR LE SENEGAL

Entre le Sahara au Nord et la forêt au Sud, la République du Sénégal s'étend entre le 17e degré Nord sur 200.000 Km². Le pays est bordé au Nord et à l'Est sur plus de 1.600 Kms par le Sénégal et son affluent, la Falémé. Au Sud, les basses collines bordant sur la rive gauche la vallée d'un autre fleuve, la Casamance, forment la frontière. A l'Quest, c'est la façade sur l'Atlantique où le Cap-Vert forme le point le plus occidental du continent.

Dans le Nord, à l'orée du Sahara, le gammier et d'autres épineux annoncent le désert ; dans le Sud, les palmiers à huile préludent à la forêt dense. Entre ces extrêmes, les wastes plaines, piquées de boobabs et d'autres bois, sont le domaîne de l'arachide, produit de base de toute l'oronmie sénégalaise. Un vaste quadrilatère a été constitué en parc national : le Niokolo-Koba, paradis de la faune africaine.

Les grandes villes sont situées près des côtes : la capitale, Dakar, avec plus de 300.000 habitants, est née sur une côte découpée où des plages dorées alternent avec des falaises sombres de basalte. Un arrondissement de la ville, serré sous les palmiers et les bougainvilliers dans l'Île de Gorée, a gardé tout le charme d'une vieille bourgade « des lles » ; en face, sur la terre ferme, un autre arrondissement forme une ville champignon aux vostes buildings blancs.

Les Sénégalais sont 2,900,000. Chez eux l'appartenance aux vieilles tribus est encore fortement essentie.

Mais un même sentiment national anime aujourd'hui tous les Sénégalais. Leur patrie a adopté le régime porlementaire avec un président, représentant de la nation, et un Gouvernement, pouvoir exécutif, responsable devant l'assemblée unique.

Le pouvoir judiciaire est indépendant. L'armée est entraînée aux tâches défensives et participe aux travaux d'équipement.

En effet, le Sénégal, après une préparation minutieuse par une équipe de savants et de techniciens, a commencé la réalisation d'un plan quadriennal qui doit considérablement améliorer le niveau de vie. C'est là l'application directe de l'idéologie de base du Sénégal : un socialisme africain, respectueux de la spiritualité et de la personne humaine

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OFFICE DU TOURISME DU SENEGAL, 28, Avenue Roume, DAKAR (Sénégal)

#### A FEW WORDS ABOUT SENEGAL

From the desert in the North to the forest in the South the Republic of Senegal extends over roughly 81.000 square miles between 17 and 12 degrees Northern latitude. In the North and East, the Senegal river and its tributary, the Faleme, form the frontier for over 1100 miles; in the South the border runs over the low hills of the watershed on the left rim of the Casamance basin. In the West the country has a large « window » on the Atlantic Ocean, where Cap Verde, reaching far out into the sea, forms the Westernmost cape of Africa.

In the North, on the edge of the Sahara, the gum tree and other thorny shrubs announce the nearby desert, in the South the oil polms form a prefude to the not so distant nain forest. Between these extremes lie vast polinis. This is the domain of the groundrut, Senegals main product and basis of its economy. A vast piece of land has been set aside as the National Park of Niokolo-Koba, a paradise for the rich African fauna.

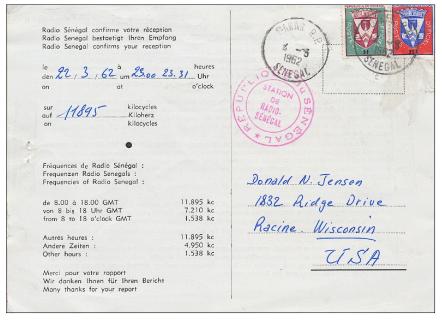
The major cities are found close to the sea. The capital, Dakar with over 300.000 inhabitants, is located on a rugged coast, where fine beaches alternate with dark bosolt citifs. One section of the city, huddled together on the island of Gorée under palm trees and bougainvilleas, has preserved the charm of an old tropical settlement, whereas on the mainland opposite the centre of Dakar offers a modernistic picture with its towering white skystkapers.

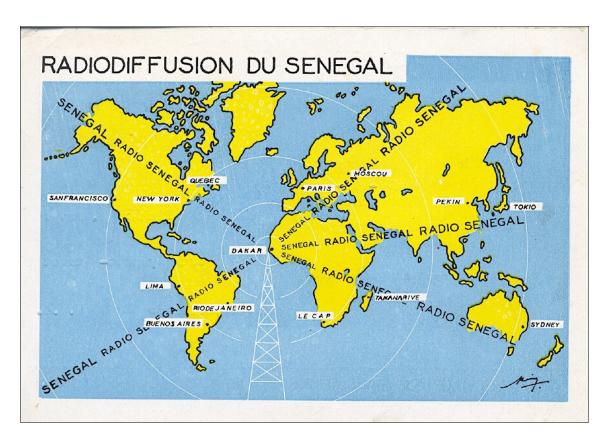
The Senegalese number about 2.9 million individuals. Among them the tribal conscience is still very strong.

But a common patriotism inspires to-day all Senegalese. Their country has chosen a democratic, parliamentary regime with a president as representative of the nation and a government, which is exercising the executive power, responsible before the one chamber parliament.

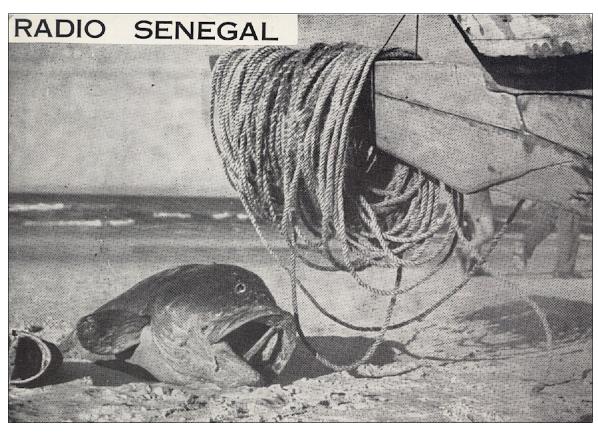
Justice is independent. The army is trained for defensive tasks and participates in public works of all kinds.

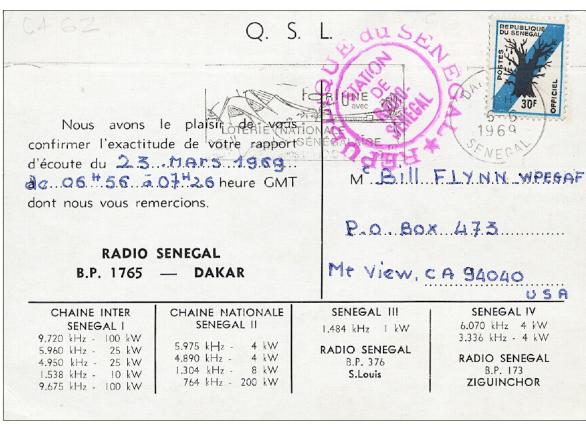
For Senegal, after a thorough preparation, carried out by a team of scientists and technicians has just started to implement a four year development plan which aims at considerably improving the standard of living. This means putting into practice the basic ideology of modern Senegal: an African socialism that respects spiritual values and the human person.











MINISTÈRE DE L'INFORMATION DE LA RADIODIFFUSION ET DE LA PRESSE

Ziguinchor, xxxxx LE

6 DEC. 1963

STATION DE RADIO-SÉNÉGAL TV

134 /MIT/RN/Z

Le Directeur de la Radiodiffusion
Sénégal IV - ZIGUINCHOR -

A Monsieur Donald JENSEN 1832 Ridge, Wisconsin

- U . S . A . -

Cher Ami,

Nous avons l'honneur d'accuser réception à votre lettre du I7 Septembre 1963 par laquelle vous nous annonciez avoir capté et écouté notre Station de Radio-Sénégal IV.

Nous avons le plaisir de confirmer votre rapport d'écoute, ainsi que les indications fournis, qui correspondent en réalité à nos émissions.

Voici quelques renseignements supplémentaires, concernant notre Station.

Notre Emetteur a une puissance de 4 K. Watt. Nous émettons tous les jours de : 6 heures à 10 heures

I2 heures à I4 heures

et I7 heures à 24 heures

dans la bande des  $\underline{49~m~6070~kilohertz}$  le matin et le soir dans la bande des  $\underline{90~m~3336}$  kilohertz.

Voici une copie de notre programme.

Les renseignements que vous nous avez fourni, nous ont été d'une grande utilité.

Nous vous remercions pour votre collaboration et espérons qu'elle ne s'arrêtera pas là.

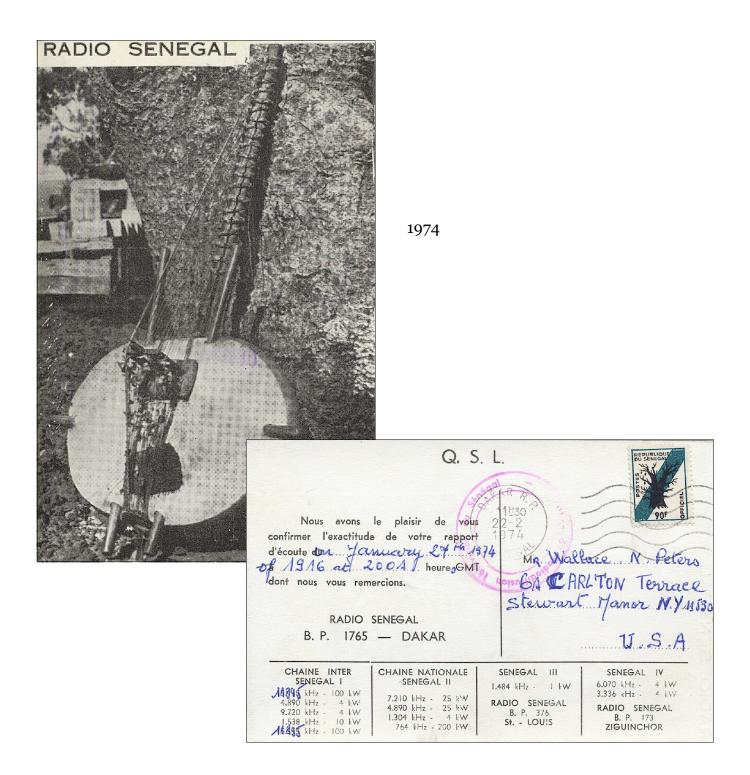
Veuillez agréer nos salutations distinguées./.-

Le Chef de la Station Radio Sénégal IV

Thiam Bouba N'DIAYE

#### 1970s

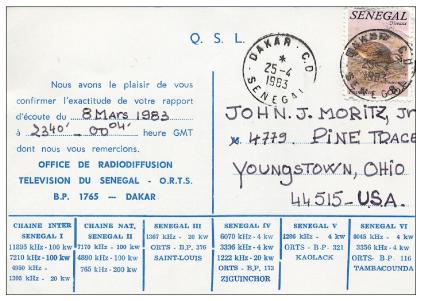
Beginning in 1978, the WRTH started listing a 4 kw. shortwave transmitter in Tambacounda, a station that was already on mediumwave. The frequency was 6080 kHz. (later 6045). Although the WRTH listing would continue through 1990—and the frequency rundown on the back of Radio Senegal QSLs in the 1980s also listed it, on 3356 and 6045 (see bottom of pg. 15)—I don't recall ever seeing reception of Tambacounds being reported.



## 1980s & 1990s

Senegal shortwave went downhill slowly. The longtime channels of 4890 and 11895 kHz. had not been heard for some time. But 7210 reappeared in 1981. And the station came to air again on 4890 kHz. in 1983, with 4875 and 4950 also returning to use. Some QSLs followed. But over time, Senegal transmissions became increasingly irregular. Frequencies 4890 and 7170 kHz. were heard in the 1990s, but intermittent operations were again the rule, and the station ceased broadcasting altogether circa 1997.





May 1, 2022