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CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING IN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

INTRODUCTION OF ACCOUNTING RATES BY ZONES IN THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC TELEGRAM SERVICE

ITU-T Recommendation D.41

(Extract from the *Blue Book*)

NOTES

1 ITU-T Recommendation D.41 was published in Fascicle II.1 of the *Blue Book*. This file is an extract from the *Blue Book*. While the presentation and layout of the text might be slightly different from the *Blue Book* version, the contents of the file are identical to the *Blue Book* version and copyright conditions remain unchanged (see below).

2 In this Recommendation, the expression “Administration” is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

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Recommendation D.41

INTRODUCTION OF ACCOUNTING RATES BY ZONES IN THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC TELEGRAM SERVICE

(Geneva, 1980)

The CCITT,

considering

(a) that a considerable number of accounting rates at present exist in the international public telegram service;

(b) that this complicates:

- 1) the procedures for determining collection charges,
- 2) the billing of customers for telegrams filed,
- 3) the establishment of monthly accounts between Administrations,
- 4) tariff studies,
- 5) the publication of rates in the ITU Table of Telegraph Rates, and
- 6) the writing of computer programs when these are used for service operation and accounting;

(c) that during the last few years operational methods in the international public telegram service have undergone simplification and that the same should apply to accounting rates;

(d) that the public has difficulty in understanding the differences that may exist between the collection charges applicable to telegrams addressed to two neighbouring countries on the same continent, which may result from the fact that collection charges may be influenced by accounting rates;

(e) that, for reasons of equity, it would be desirable for the accounting rate to be shared by the participating Administrations (terminal and, possibly, transit) in proportions which take account of the service provided by each of these Administrations;

(f) that, as a result of the survey conducted in 1978/1979 by the CCITT Secretariat on accounting rates and outpayments by a country of origin in its relations with countries in continents other than its own, it has been possible to arrive at average values for the accounting rates and outpayments;

(g) that these average values have been affected by special arrangements between certain countries in different continents and by the failure of certain Administrations to supply information;

(h) that, with a view to obtaining more realistic average values, it may be necessary, in the relevant calculations, to recognize that some traffic data or lack of traffic data evidently distorted the results;

(i) that the survey indicates that the average accounting rates vary considerably in certain intercontinental relations;

j) that, in the interest of senders, in principle, there should not be more than a single charge for a telegram handed in in any country in one continent and addressed to any country in another continent;

recognizing

(1) that, in principle, uniformity of accounting rates, and thereby possibly collection charges, on a zonal basis is desirable;

(2) that the introduction of such zonal accounting could in certain relations result in a reduction in the accounting rate with a consequential effect on collection charges;

(3) that for economic or political reasons a zonal accounting system is not immediately attainable by certain Administrations and, in the interim, Administrations may need to make other bilateral agreements until they are able to attain this objective,

unanimously recommends

that, in their negotiations for the establishment of accounting rates between two continents in the international public telegram service, Administrations should be guided by the average values given in the tables annexed to this Recommendation. A long-term objective is for those rates exceeding 1.5 gold francs per ordinary word to be reduced to this level. This figure of 1.5 gold francs may need to be reviewed periodically to reflect changes in the costs of providing the international public telegram service.

ANNEX A

(to Recommendation D.41)

Results of the 1978/1979 survey on the accounting-rate shares and accounting rates applied in the international public telegram service

A.1 On the initiative of Working Party III/3 (Tariffs and accounting in the international telegram service), the CCITT Secretariat carried out in 1978/1979 an inquiry into the accounting-rate shares and accounting rates applied in the international public telegram service. The essential purpose of this enquiry was to determine the mean total amount per ordinary word paid by each country in its traffic to each of the continents other than that to which it belongs.

A.2 By 19 March 1979, replies had been received from:

- 28 countries¹⁾ in Africa;
- 19 countries¹⁾ in North America;
- 9 countries¹⁾ in South America;
- 20 countries¹⁾ in Asia;
- 4 countries¹⁾ in Australia (Oceania); and
- 28 countries¹⁾ in Europe.

In all, therefore, replies were received from 108 countries¹⁾, which can be regarded as extremely satisfactory.

A.3 The results of the survey are summarized in Tables A-3/D.41 to A-8/D.41, which show for each of the countries replying to the questionnaire:

- a) in column 1, the *total number of words* (in thousands), expressed as ordinary words, originating in the country and addressed to all the countries in all the continents other than that to which the country belongs;
- b) in column 2, the *mean accounting rate per word* (in gold francs) originating in the country in relations with all the countries in all the continents other than that to which the country belongs;
- c) in column 3, the *mean outpayment per ordinary word* in (gold francs) *made by the country* for traffic to each of the continents other than that to which it belongs.

At the base of columns 2 and 3, are also indicated the respective *weighted averages*

- a) of the *mean accounting rate per ordinary word* originating in *each continent* in its relations with each of the other continents, and
- b) of the *mean outpayment per ordinary word* originating in *each continent* in its relations with each of the other continents.

These weighted averages, *expressed in gold francs*, are summarized in the two tables A-1/D.41 and A-2/D.41.

¹⁾ In this annex, the word “country” means “country or territory”.

Note – The names of countries or territories given in Tables A-3/D.41 to A-8/D.41 have been used in column 3 of the “List of telegraph offices open for international service” [1].

TABLE A-1/D.41

Weighted averages of the mean accounting rate per word

<i>Continents:</i> Destination→ Origin↓	Africa	North America	South America	Asia	Australia and Oceania	Europe
Africa		0.936	1.859	1.476	1.043	1.030
North America	1.962		0.990	1.620	2.432	1.183
South America	3.102	1.352		3.281	3.451	2.091
Asia	1.929	1.679	2.421		1.716	1.573
Australia and Oceania	1.161	0.594	1.402	1.130		1.022
Europe	1.176	1.006	1.861	1.160	0.832	

TABLE A-2/D.41

Weighted averages of the mean outpayment per word

<i>Continents:</i> Destination→ Origin↓	Africa	North America	South America	Asia	Australia and Oceania	Europe
Africa		0.493	0.950	0.742	0.425	0.507
North America	0.747		0.499	0.628	0.774	0.499
South America	0.947	0.551		0.895	1.100	0.756
Asia	0.858	0.614	0.852		0.721	0.772
Australia and Oceania	0.627	0.303	0.913	0.617		0.532
Europe	0.580	0.510	0.801	0.595	0.460	