INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

CCITT F.11

THE INTERNATIONAL
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

TELEGRAPH AND MOBILE SERVICES OPERATIONS AND QUALITY OF SERVICE

CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF TRADITIONAL SERVICES

Recommendation F.11

Geneva, 1991

FOREWORD

The CCITT (the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee) is a permanent organ of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). CCITT is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The Plenary Assembly of CCITT which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study and approves Recommendations prepared by its Study Groups. The approval of Recommendations by the members of CCITT between Plenary Assemblies is covered by the procedure laid down in CCITT Resolution No. 2 (Melbourne, 1988).

Recommendation F.11 was prepared by Study Group I and was approved under the Resolution No. 2 procedure on the 11th of October 1991.

CCITT NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication Administration and a recognized private operating agency.

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1 Background

1.1 At the World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference (Melbourne, 1988) considerable attention was given to ensuring a wide availability of telecommunication services with effective interconnection and interoperability. This implied a continuing availability of basic or traditional services in many international relations, despite the evolution of new or more sophisticated services. Article 4 of the International Telecommunication Regulation (Melbourne, 1988) expects Administrations to provide "a wide range of international telecommunication services" including "at least a form of telecommunication which is reasonably accessible to the public, including those who may not be subscribers to a specific telecommunication service".

1.2 Resolution No. 6 of the same World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference (Melbourne, 1988) called for provisions to be made "to allow, through available communication infrastructures, continued availability of traditional services so as to enable effective communications on a world-wide basis". In particular this concerned services in "certain rural areas and developing countries" that "may need to rely on existing widely available services for a relatively long period of time".

2 Scope

2.1 Pursuant to the International Telecommunication Regulations (Melbourne, 1988), this Recommendation lays down general principles on the continued availability of traditional services to facilitate global interconnection and interoperability of telecommunication facilities, pending the establishment of new services and to ensure the efficiency, usefulness and availability to the public of international telecommunication services.

2.2 It addresses the coordination needed between Administrations to achieve that continued availability. Members should take any necessary steps to ensure that coordination.

2.3 Within the framework of this Recommendation, "traditional" services include the international public telegram, telex and telephone services.

3 Services principles

3.1 Pursuant to Article 4 (4.3) of the International Telecommunication Regulations, and subject to national coordination arrangements, Administrations should provide and maintain at least a minimum quality of service corresponding to the relevant CCITT Recommendations for the various telecommunication services that they offer to the public.

3.2 Administrations may take action to develop, to improve or to rationalize this range of services, including an integration of elements of various services (interworking or accessing arrangements) or the introduction of new services. Provisions to ensure adequate interconnection and interoperability may be incorporated into existing Recommendations or covered by new Recommendations. In particular the aspects of quality of service (as perceived by the user) and tariff principles need to be covered in the appropriate Recommendations.

3.3 When the Administration (or Administrations) in one country suspends an international service definitively, either in all or certain relations, it shall make arrangements to ensure to the greatest extent practicable that the service may effectively continue to operate in some acceptable form for other Administrations, pending the establishment of the relevant new or replacement services in their countries. In this context, the continuing service is the end result perceived by the user. The actual telecommunication infrastructure used to furnish that end service may vary. For example in some instances and for agreed classes of traffic the telemessage and/or bureaufax services could be considered to provide an adequate replacement for an international public telegram service.

3.4 In principle, such replacement services or interworking arrangements should not unduly burden Administrations that may reasonably be considered to rely on the continued availability of the relevant traditional service. Consequently, the necessary changes in the technical facilities and in the operational procedures (including accounting) should be arranged to have minimum impact on Administrations needing to retain the traditional service.