

C.S.

POSTAL & TELEGRAPHIC.

(Broadcasting)

193 2.

No.

312/32.

Electrician-in-Charge.

SUBJECT.

193 2.

NEW EMPIRE BROADCASTING STATION.

1st December.

Report on reception in Falkland Islands.

Previous Paper.

## MINUTES.

1-3.

Minute from Electrician-in-Charge of 1/12 /32.

4.

Hon. Col. Secretary's Minute of 2/12/32.

*Electrician-in-Charge.**Thank you for this report.  
Will you please proceed  
accordingly?**ld.  
C. J. J. C.  
4/12/32.**Hon Col Sec,**Yls. Report will be sent next mail.**Thrupon 5/2/32.*

Subsequent Paper.

*ld. 18/12/32.  
a. J. 6/12/32.*

Det. & Chap.

Please see for

recovery admin.

J. M. S.

17. 12. 32.

Lon Col Sec

Noted.

Alpha. 19/12/32

P.A.  
20/12/32

S. of S. circular of 7 Jan 1933.

6-7.

Sgt. Chet. Dept.

For your consideration,  
please, to the first place.

J. M. S.

S.

10. 3. 33.



Hon Col. Ke.

I have sent several reports to the B.B.C. on reception and as you are aware we frequently relay the Empire Station when conditions and other circumstances permit.

There are 20 short wave receiving sets in Stanley and 10 in the Camp, all of which are capable of receiving the new Empire Station. The new Empire service, therefore, suffers from no lack of advertisement in this Colony.

I have already received several copies of the questionnaire, one of which has been completed and returned to the B.B.C. may I withdraw the copies in this paper for distribution to keen short wave listeners?

With regard to Mr Frost's Empire tour the B.B.C. has informed me that Mr Frost is unable to visit the Falkland Islands. I have accordingly written to the B.B.C. informing them that we shall be very glad to receive specimens of recorded programmes for examination and test.

In conclusion I feel that we are doing all we can to further the cause of Empire broadcasting in this Colony.

T. B. Ryan 13/3/33.

6/ 7.7.33.

(propos uprd)

pl 5.4.33

minute from Supt, Electrical Dept 7/13 9-12

~~Spt. Plk. Spt.~~

S. of. despatch, n. 53 of 10/14/33.

13-14.

Spt. Plk. Spt.

To see

Under

12.4.33.

Hon Col Sec.

Seen

12/4/33

~~6/ 7.7.33.~~

~~pl 13.4.33.~~

~~6/ 14/10/33.~~  
~~6/ 10/10/33.~~

~~6/ 10/10/33.~~  
~~6/ 10/10/33.~~

~~6/ 15/7/33.~~  
~~6/ 15/7/33.~~  
~~6/ 15/7/33.~~  
~~6/ 15/7/33.~~

~~6/ 31/3/34.~~  
~~6/ 11/3/34.~~

~~6/ 15/7/33.~~  
~~6/ 15/7/33.~~

A.C.S.

A reply has not yet been  
received to Res. 13 14.

A. J. S.  
A.C.S.  
31/3/34.

J. Submitted. I do not know  
that it is necessary to pursue  
the matter. In the ordinary  
course we get news daily.

M.C.H.  
A.C.S.  
2. 4. 34

J. C. S.

I agree that no  
further action is called for  
here.

J. C. S.

3. 4. 34.

P. A.  
M.C.H.  
3. 4. 34

(15) Sif Saspach no 63 of 16/5/34



H. Submitted for information.

MCH  
ag. C.S.  
26. 6. 34.

Hr. C. S.

See: nil action.

put

P. R. MCH  
26. VI. 34

26. 6. 34.

Letter from Director, R.B.C. of 14/9/34. 16-14.

O.C. Electrical Dept.

(16) No note and withdraw Red.

G. J. C.S.  
for 5/12/34

Hon Col Sec  
noted please, Red to be withdrawn

G. W. Ditcher  
O.I.C. C.S.  
7/12/34

P. R.  
10/12/34

S. of States Circ. despatch of 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1935.

(25)

Supt. of Education

To see para: 5 of red 25., also red 18. It is doubtful having regard to the fact that the majority of children attend the Gov. School whether broadcast talks such as referred to in red 18 would be of any benefit here. At present the broadcasting service is confined to Stanley only, if later on it can be extended to outlying districts then no doubt such talks would be of great value. Will you kindly furnish your observations.

MCH  
Ch.

26. 6. 55

Hon. Col. Sec.

Educational broadcasting for in the Colony for the benefit of children would mainly be done by teachers on the staff of the Government School in Stanley. The majority of the children in Stanley already receive tuition from these teachers in the ordinary course of school work. The broadcasting system does not extend to the earth. Consequently, as you say, there does not seem to be any need to institute educational broadcasting for children at present.

a.m.

Supt. of Educ.

28 June 1935



Chief Electrician and  
In. Operator

To see reds 18-25 and  
for any observations you may  
wish to offer. Will you  
kindly say whether the rediffusion  
service is carried to the Camp  
and if so what places. Presumably  
to get efficient reception in the  
Camp, special wires would be  
required as in Stanley, this would  
make the cost over long distances  
prohibitive.

MCH  
CS

Non Collec.

1.7.35

Reds 18-25 Seen chalk 400. Although Empire  
Programmes are broadcast daily from London, we are  
only able to relay a small percentage of the transmissions  
owing to the receiving apparatus not being very selective,  
and also, the aerial arrangement is far from being  
efficient.

1. It would certainly be an advantage to have  
suitable receiving apparatus, together with aerials.  
And perhaps it would be possible to obtain particulars  
through the Crown Agents, for such material in the  
event of any improvement to the present system being  
sanctioned?

2. There are 3 telephone lines to the Camp, over  
which programmes are relayed, but they are not subscribers.  
About 8 houses are on these lines, and can therefore  
receive the relayed programmes.

3. To date there are 111 subscribers with 8 or 10  
still requiring installation of loudspeakers, so that by  
the end of the present year there will be some 120  
subscribers.

A. Mercer

Ag. C.E.

8.7.35.



C.E.

I take it that what is required to improve the broadcasting service would be short-wave receivers, amplifiers, microphones, etc. There are estimates on 6 and 7 of red (24) but those estimates refer to 1000 and 500 subscribers respectively.

Presumably only one short-wave receiver would be required. Can you give an estimate of cost of improvement - say £100?

MCH.

C.S.

11.7.35

Hon Col Sec.

I consider that one shortwave receiver together with an efficient aerial would give a much better service. The receiver however, would, I believe be expensive from £250 to £300. The aerial could be made locally for approximately £15. I suggest that estimates be obtained from the Crown Agents for similar shortwave receivers supplied to the Gold Coast vide Red 24 page 4 last para. please

A. Mercer

Ag C.E.

16/7/35.

P. Submitted. So far broadcasting  
 in Stanley has not been used  
 as an aid to Education or in other  
 fields, indeed such would be of  
 little benefit unless at some future  
 date it is found possible to  
 extend broadcasting to outside  
 districts. Of course broadcasting  
 from a W.F. Station would be  
 the most desirable method in  
 this Colony because as it's  
 best the rediffusion service  
 can only be applied to Stanley.  
 I fear it is not possible at  
 present to extend broadcasting  
 or to improve the present service.

MCH  
 CS  
 18.7.55

The G. C. considers that a much improved  
 service could be obtained for about £300. Will  
 you please note this provisionally for the 1956  
 estimates though I agree that there is little  
 likelihood of money being available

B.F. 16.8.55  
 MCH. 22.7.55

MCH 21/7/55

Noted for 1956 estimates  
 MCH.

P.A.

26.8.55

not possible to  
 make any provision  
 in 1956 estimates  
 in any case plan  
 for W.F. Station  
 for 1957 cost £70  
 or £80 inc



(2)

The new Empire Broadcasting Station.

-----

I have the honour to report that the new Empire Broadcasting Station has been testing to the West African Zone during the past 3 days on wavelengths of 31.5 and 49.6 metres between the hours of 20.30 and 22.30 G.M.T.

For broadcasting purposes the Falkland Islands falls under this zone.

Results, <sup>when heard</sup> on the 49.6 wavelength have at all times been poor. I therefore give below my observations on the 31.5 metre wavelength.

Monday. Results good. Speech and music heard at good strength on the loudspeaker. Speech very distinct almost every word heard clearly. Music although loud was slightly distorted due to fading.

Tuesday. Results very poor, music and speech scarcely audible during first hour, but improved towards 22.30 G.M.T. Atmospherics very bad.

The old station (G.5.S.W.) was much louder and clearer than the new station on this occasion.

Wednesday. Results moderate. Speech and music heard on loudspeaker at varying strengths. Speech at times quite clear but music distorted. Atmospherics fairly bad.

During this evening at 10 p.m. local time the new station was heard transmitting to Canada on a wavelength of 31.5 metres but signal strength was rather weak.

Although it would appear that results have been rather disappointing, it should be borne in mind that, with the exception of the first day, reception conditions were by no means ideal owing to the prevalence of atmospherics.

I am of the opinion that so far as the Falkland Islands is concerned reception of this station will not be at its best until the winter sets in.

The B.B.C. are desirous of receiving reports, by cable  
if/

2.

if possible, from anyone who heard the test.

*W. H. Ryan*

Electrician-in-Charge.



No.

MINUTE.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

*1st Dec*

1932.

From.....

To

*Electrician in Charge.*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I beg to attach herewith a report on the reception of the new Empire Broadcasting Station which commenced testing on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

*F. Byron.*

y.2.

Submitted for

information. Personally I

was disappointed with

that I heard of these

facts on Wednesday the

30<sup>th</sup> November.

2. The U.S. & China

might send a report

to the B.B.C. by next

mail or the lines of

present report.

Just

2.12.32.

How C.S.  
I am disappointed  
too: yes; the report  
should be sent  
y.2. 2.12.32



DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

*From* The Secretary of State.

*To* His Excellency the Governor.

*Despatched :* 16th December, 19 32 *Time :* 21.50

*Received :* 17th December, 19 32 *Time :* 11.00

~~XXXX~~ No. 73. Empire Station opens 19th December. Transmission to your zone: wave lengths of 49.586 and 51.297 kilocycles 6,050 and 9,585 call signs G.S.A. and G.S.C. Transmissions will continue daily including Sundays 8.30 to 10.30 p.m. on G.M.T. Please publish this information.

Secretary of State.

CIRCULAR.



Downing Street,

7th January, 1933.

Sir,

*I have the honour to address you on the subject of the British Broadcasting Corporation's scheme for Empire Broadcasting which was initiated on the 19th of December last.*

*2. The British Broadcasting Corporation have always pursued the ideal of a system of Empire broadcasting and as long ago as 1927 they initiated a series of constant and exhaustive experiments with a view to achieving what they felt to be essential before they could undertake a constant regular service, namely, a system of transmission on which a reasonable degree of reliance might be placed. The most important aspect of this experimentation was the establishment in November, 1927, of the experimental short-wave transmitter at Chelmsford, G<sub>5</sub>SW ; this enterprise was strictly tentative but by 1929 it had resulted in a very great deal of information consisting of reports from listeners, not only those interested as experts in short-wave transmission, but also from ordinary users of receivers, and it was seen that there was a general desire for a regular service. This desire was greatest in Colonies without a regular broadcasting service or with a rudimentary one only.*

*3. On the basis of these reports various schemes for providing a transmitting station and programmes and a news service were considered, but, owing to technical difficulties and, above all, to financial conditions, they could not be pursued. It was obvious that Imperial funds would not be available for any such service.*

*4. This situation received the immediate attention of the British Broadcasting Corporation. The existing station at Chelmsford had intrinsic limitations which would never permit it to provide an adequate Empire service, and the cost of maintaining it was considerable. Two main alternatives were open to the Corporation, viz., either (1) to*

*The Officer Administering  
the Government of*



abandon the scheme entirely, or (2) to assume the sole responsibility for an Empire service. Their appreciation of the position—and I feel bound to record my appreciation of their public-spirited attitude—was that, whatever the financial difficulties might be, all the evidence went to show a widespread desire in all parts of the Empire for the service. If the project were given up, this country would be without the power to express itself by wireless throughout the world, while other countries, by reason of their short-wave equipment, were able to do so. The British Broadcasting Corporation therefore decided to pursue the project and in November 1931 announced their intention to proceed at once with plans for erecting a short-wave Empire broadcasting station. I must emphasize that this project is a costly one upon which the Corporation have no prospect of financial compensation in the near future, and one which does not fall within the functions contemplated in their charter.

5. The old experimental station G<sub>5</sub>SW has been replaced by the most modern station and equipment available, with two transmitters, eight wave-lengths, and seventeen aerials. The plans laid down for the station are advisedly indefinite at the present time : the details of future policy will be decided in the light of experience. At first the main appeal will be to the direct listener with a short-wave receiving-set, and the improvements in short-wave transmission and reception are such that reasonably good reception should be possible to such listeners. In addition, broadcasting stations in the Empire should be able to receive and relay the programmes provided. The service will not be without difficulties owing to the size of the Empire, spreading as it does over 300 degrees of longitude involving a time difference of twenty hours at Greenwich. A general Empire broadcast, while not impossible, is neither convenient nor satisfactory, but arrangements have been made to transmit programmes at suitable times to various separate zones.

6. This enterprise, which is substantially due to the disinterested enthusiasm of the British Broadcasting Corporation, has my fullest support. I realize that in most Colonies, where an advanced local broadcasting system does not yet exist, the furtherance of the service will depend upon short-wave enthusiasts. I trust that you will do all in your power to present to them the facts which I have outlined in this despatch and to encourage them in co-operating to promote the success of the scheme. This they may do by sending reports of reception to the British Broadcasting Corporation, by making suggestions to them, and especially, when their reception is good, by

letting their neighbours hear transmissions from England. The service has in some measure emerged from the experimental stage, but it cannot reasonably be expected to be perfect in its early days. The Corporation have no illusion upon this point, and while they ask for patience from listeners they also solicit their co-operation in giving them the fullest possible information upon the technical aspects of local reception. For this reason they have produced a questionnaire of which I enclose a few copies with the request that you will do what is possible to give it a wide currency in the territory under your administration—either through the Press or otherwise as you may deem most appropriate—with an intimation that a good Empire service will be substantially promoted by the co-operation of listeners. The British Broadcasting Corporation will welcome constructive criticism of every kind ; but it will be realized that criticism which is confined to mere details of programmes or of times selected for broadcasting, and which is either based purely upon personal preferences or is lacking in any concrete proposals for improvement, will be of little value.

7. Preliminary steps have been taken by the British Broadcasting Corporation in sending Mr. Malcolm Frost, a member of the Corporation's Empire Service Department, on an Empire tour. Mr. Frost's duties are threefold, corresponding to the three main principles of the Empire broadcasting scheme, namely, (1) to explain the primary object of the service which is for the benefit of the direct listener, that is, the individual living in a country where no organized local broadcasting exists, (2) to arrange a close and effective liaison with local broadcasting organizations in countries where these already exist and where it is hoped the relaying of the Empire programmes will become a regular feature, and (3) to interest local broadcasting enterprises in the Empire recorded programmes, which have been produced at considerable expense by the Corporation, and which it is hoped will prove an acceptable resource to local programme builders who, through a scarcity of material and artists, should welcome additional means of providing broadcast entertainment. These recorded programmes, whatever the immediate possibilities of transmission from London, should ensure that British programmes will be available in places where broadcasting organizations exist. The Corporation intends furnishing a regular supply of such programmes if, as a result of Mr. Frost's tour, the demand justifies a continuance of the supply, and their dissemination as envisaged by the British Broadcasting Corporation has my entire support. Should Mr. Frost



during his itinerary visit the territory under your administration I am sure that you will give him all possible assistance in advancing the general success of the scheme in its three main objectives.

8. I have written at some length on this matter as I am especially concerned to see that this enterprise which is of great and obvious Imperial value should be successful. The British Broadcasting Corporation have spared no pains to provide, without any financial subvention, a service of broadcasting for the whole Empire, and I rely upon you to do what lies in your power to co-operate with them. You may feel that this co-operation would be best initiated by the publication of this despatch in the local press.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

11

# THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Telephone  
WELBECK 4468



Telegrams  
ETHANUZE. LONDON

BROADCASTING HOUSE, LONDON  
W. 1

When replying please quote C/CGG

30th December, 1932.

F.A. Byron, Esq.,  
Telegraph Dept.  
Government Broadcasting Service,  
Port Stanley,  
Falkland Isles.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in enclosing for your information a copy of the conditions governing the relaying of the British Broadcasting Corporation's programmes by Dominion and Colonial broadcasting organisations.

Yours faithfully,  
THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION,

Empire Service Director.

Encl.



10

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING RELAYING OF THE BRITISH BROADCASTING  
CORPORATION'S PROGRAMMES BY DOMINION AND COLONIAL BROADCASTERS**  
(Subject to alteration or amendment from time to time as the Corporation may think fit)

---

**I. PROGRAMMES TRANSMITTED BY THE BRITISH EMPIRE BROADCASTING STATION**

- 11
- (1) Programmes broadcast by the British Empire Broadcasting Station are available for relay by Dominion and Colonial broadcasters with the exception of news bulletins, the copyright of which is reserved by Reuters and which may not be rebroadcast.
  - (2) The output of the British Empire Broadcasting Station may, subject to any conditions and agreements that may be in force in the receiving country, be picked up by the relayer free of technical charge, but, where any telephonic connections are required in addition to, or instead of, such pick-up, the relayer will be responsible for arranging these, and must notify the B.B.C. in advance, in order that the "Call" may be accepted.
  - (3) No prior information with regard to intention to relay is necessary but a statement of programmes relayed should be despatched to the British Broadcasting Corporation the day following the relay. The British Broadcasting Corporation will notify overseas broadcasting organization of any programmes which, owing to special circumstances, are not available for rebroadcast.
  - (4) A relayer may not, without permission from the British Broadcasting Corporation, retransmit British programme matter to, or authorize its pick-up by, a foreign station.
  - (5) The relayer is responsible for any copyright or other claims by third parties that may arise out of the rebroadcast in his country.
  - (6) No records shall be made of programme matter by the receiving party.
  - (7) Relayed matter shall not be included in, or directly associated with, advertisements or programmes provided by an advertiser.

**II. PROGRAMMES BROADCAST BY THE HOME SERVICE OF THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION BUT NOT TRANSMITTED BY THE BRITISH EMPIRE BROADCASTING STATION**

- (1) Programmes other than those transmitted by the British Empire Broadcasting Station are available for relay by Dominion and Colonial broadcasters with the exception of news bulletins, the copyright of which is reserved by Reuters and which may not be rebroadcast.
- (2) The output of the British Broadcasting Corporation's Stations other than that of the British Empire Broadcasting Station may, subject to any conditions and agreements that may be in force in the receiving country, be picked up by the relayer free of technical charge, but, where any telephonic connections are required in addition to, or instead of, such pick-up, the relayer will be responsible for arranging these, and must notify the B.B.C. in advance, in order that the "Call" may be accepted.
- (3) In order that third-party rights, the full extent of which may not be known in the relaying country, may be covered, the relayer must notify the British Broadcasting Corporation in advance of his intention to relay. In particular, when a B.B.C. programme

is a rebroadcast (simultaneous or by record) of the programme of another broadcaster, the permission of the originating broadcaster must be obtained. And, if promoters or artists at the point of origin set up claims in respect of the relay, so as to endanger the original broadcast, the relay will not take place unless agreement with them has been reached.

- (4) A relay may not, without permission from the British Broadcasting Corporation, retransmit British programme matter to, or authorize its pick-up by, a foreign station.
- (5) The relay is responsible for any copyright or other claims by third parties that may arise out of the rebroadcast in his country.
- (6) No records shall be made of programme matter by the receiving party.
- (7) Relayed matter shall not be included in, or directly associated with, advertisements or programmes provided by an advertiser.

### III. PROGRAMMES NOT BROADCAST BY THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

When an overseas broadcaster desires to relay a performance, speech or other event taking place in Great Britain or Northern Ireland but not broadcast there, he will order and pay for all necessary telephonic linkages and pay all programme charges, including out-of-pocket expenses of B.B.C. staff. When such event or performance takes place outside the transmitting hours of the B.B.C. certain fees to staff may be involved as well. The intending relay is advised to consult the B.B.C. in the first instance before opening negotiations with such programme sources. The B.B.C. will be prepared to assist and advise in these negotiations and, subject to the requirements of its own service, to carry out the technical arrangements required.

---

BROADCASTING HOUSE,  
LONDON, W.1.

December, 1932



# EMPIRE BROADCAST SERVICE.

We publish the following notes on the Empire Broadcast Service in the hope that they will be of interest to local wireless listeners in particular and to our readers in general.

## ▲ Specially Equipped Station.

The history of the service starts with the establishment by the British Broadcasting Corporation in 1927 of the experimental short-wave transmission at Chelmsford known as G.5. S.W.. This transmission was distinctly experimental and tentative but it resulted in the receipt of a great quantity of helpful information from short-wave experts and ordinary listeners all over the Empire and demonstrated a general desire for a regular service.

The British Broadcasting Corporation have assumed therefore the responsibility for an Empire service and opened - as is well known - in December last a new station equipped especially for the purpose with the most modern apparatus obtainable including two transmitters, eight wave lengths and seventeen aerials. The plans laid down for the new station are advisedly indefinite at the present time: the details of future policy will be decided in the light of experience.

At first the main appeal is to the direct listener with a short-wave receiving set and the improvements in short-wave transmission and reception are such that reasonably good reception should be possible to such listeners.

It is realised that the service will not be without difficulties owing to the size of the Empire, spreading as it does over 300 degrees of longitude involving a time difference of twenty hours at Greenwich. A general Empire broadcast, while not impossible, is neither convenient nor satisfactory, but arrangements have been made to transmit programmes at suitable times to various separate zones.

The Falkland Islands come in the West African Zone to which programmes are transmitted daily between 16.30 and 18.30 G.M.T. or 4.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. local time (winter.)

## ▲ Helpful Questionnaire.

The British Broadcasting Corporation cordially invite the co-operation of listeners in all parts of the Empire in promoting the success of the service. This listeners can do by sending reports of reception to the British Broadcasting Corporation, by making suggestions to them and especially, when reception is good, by letting their neighbours hear transmissions from England. The service has in some measure emerged from the experimental stage but it cannot reasonably be expected to be perfect in its early days. The British Broadcasting Corporation have no illusion upon this point, and while they ask for patience from listeners they do solicit their co-operation in giving them the fullest possible information upon the technical aspects of local reception.

For this reason they have produced a questionnaire of which a supply is being obtained for distribution to local listeners who are asked in this way to co-operate in the substantial promotion of a good Empire service.

The Superintendent of the Electrical Department in Stanley, Mr. F.A.W. Byron, will be glad to receive applications for copies of the questionnaire from local listeners and to forward them as soon as they become available.

The British Broadcasting Corporation will welcome constructive criticism of every kind; but it will be realised that criticism which is confined to mere details of programmes or of times selected for broadcasting, and which is either based upon purely personal preferences or is lacking in any concrete proposals for improvement will be of little value.

o.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

(14)

5<sup>th</sup> April

1933

From

To

Superintendent

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Electrical Dept.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I have the honour to forward for your perusal a copy of the conditions governing the relaying of programmes broadcast by the Empire Station.

You will observe that we are prohibited from relaying the news bulletin, the copyright of which is reserved by Reuters. I would suggest therefore that Messrs Reuters be approached with a view to allowing us to relay their news bulletins.

W. W. W. W.



FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 53.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
STANLEY,

10th April, 1933.

Sir,

In duplicate.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. F. A. W. Byron, Superintendent of the Electrical department, by the Empire Service Director of the British Broadcasting Corporation relative to the conditions governing the relaying of the British Broadcasting Corporation's programmes by Dominion and Colonial broadcasting organizations.

2. You will be aware, no doubt, that one of these conditions states that programmes are available for relay by Dominion and Colonial broadcasters with the exception of news bulletins, the copyright of which is reserved by Reuters and which may not be rebroadcast.

3. I would enquire whether this reservation applies to rebroadcast over the local system of telephone lines, as distinct from aerial retransmission, and in such event whether an exception might be made in the case of this Colony as has been made already by the courtesy of Messrs Reuters in regard to their Rugby World News Service (see the correspondence terminated in your despatch, No. 75 of the 17th of June, 1932).

4./

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER,  
G.B.E., F.C., M.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.



4. The value and interest of the British Broadcast Corporation's Empire Service from the point of view of this Colony lies largely in the news bulletins and the grant of the further concession asked would be much appreciated.

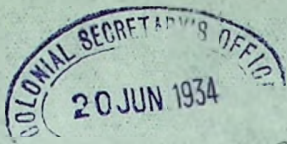
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

JAMES O'GRADY.





31/2/32

165

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 63.

Downing Street,

(6 May, 1934.

Sir,

*Red 14*  
I have the honour to refer to Sir James O'Grady's despatch No.53 of the 10th April, 1933, regarding the conditions governing the relaying of the British Broadcasting Corporation's programmes by Colonial broadcasting organisations, and to state that I am informed that the reservation with regard to the relaying of the news bulletins does not apply to the distribution of the bulletins to properly licensed subscribers over the local system of telephone lines.

2. I have to express regret for the delay which has occurred in replying to your despatch.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Sd.) F. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING  
THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(14)

# THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

## Broadcasting House, London, W.1

TELEPHONE: WELBECK 4468    TELEGRAMS: BROADCASTS, LONDON

His Excellency the  
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,  
Government House,  
Port Stanley,  
Falkland Islands.

17th September, 1934.

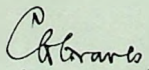
Dear Sir,

We are enclosing herewith a copy of the first issue of a new programme pamphlet which contains full details of programmes to be broadcast from our Empire Station at Daventry. This pamphlet will in future be published weekly. As from December 28th, 1934, the special Empire edition of 'World-Radio', which has hitherto been the official journal of the Empire broadcasting service, will be discontinued. The pamphlet will, therefore, take the place of the programme supplement, which has up to now been published in 'World-Radio'.

In the past the copyright of detailed programmes broadcast from our Empire Station has been reserved by 'World-Radio'. The new arrangements result from a decision to make these programmes more widely available throughout the Empire. In the future there will be no restriction on publication of programmes in the daily newspapers and other periodicals overseas. Copies of the programme pamphlet are available (on application to the B.B.C.) to all newspapers within the Empire, and the pamphlet will also be supplied to individual listeners on payment of 5/- per year to cover cost of postage. Complimentary copies of the pamphlet will be sent to all those who have, up to now, been receiving complimentary issues of Empire 'World-Radio'.

We naturally hope that a wider distribution of our programme arrangements will assist in extending interest in our Empire Service, and we would take this opportunity of reminding you that we shall be glad at all times to answer any enquiries which may be sent to us about any aspect of the Service.

Yours faithfully,  
THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION,



Director of Empire & Foreign Services.



Enclosure 1 in Circular despatch dated 8th May, 1935.

## THE EMPIRE BROADCASTING SERVICE.

NOTES BY THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION.

Since the issue of the Secretary of State's Circular despatch dated 7th January, 1933, there has been considerable development of the Empire Broadcasting Service inaugurated by the B.B.C. on 19th December, 1932.

It is unnecessary to enlarge here upon the technical aspects of the development at Daventry where the Empire transmitters are situated, but an indication of the expanded scope of the programme service may be of interest to Colonial Administrations. A separate technical report is appended, giving notes on methods of reception and distribution overseas.

In the Secretary of State's despatch of 16th March, 1934, which dealt primarily with administrative aspects of the establishment of wireless exchanges within the Colonies, reference was made in paragraph 8 to the broadcast news bulletins radiated from the Empire Station at Daventry. During the last few months special attention has been given to the preparation of these Empire news bulletins, and an Empire News Editor with a staff of three sub-editors has been appointed in order that these bulletins may be made as comprehensive as possible. It is anticipated that their value will increase, especially for listeners in isolated parts of Colonial territories. It is generally known that all programmes radiated from the Empire Station are available for rediffusion through the medium of the wireless exchange system in any part of the Empire. All programme matter, with the exception of news bulletins, is similarly available for dissemination through the medium of re-broadcasting, but the retransmission from a broadcasting station of news bulletins is a matter which must be negotiated direct by the local broadcaster with Messrs. Reuters, who supply the B.B.C. with material for the bulletins. An extension of the service, which it is hoped will prove of interest, will be the inauguration early in 1935 of weekly bulletins of commercial information, indicating general tendency movements in commodity and metal markets. This step has been decided upon by the B.B.C. after careful consideration and in consultation with Government officials representative of Dominion and Colonial interests, and the bulletins will supplement the weekly produce market information which has been broadcast regularly in certain transmissions for the past two years.

The B.B.C. has received during the past two years exceedingly valuable help from listeners in all parts of the Empire, who have reported on technical and programme aspects of the service, and it is emphasized that the future development of the service must be dependent upon a continuance of this co-operation on the part of Administrations and individual listeners overseas.

At the outset the transmissions from Daventry were restricted to ten hours daily, divided into five sessions corresponding in general terms with spaced time differences throughout the Empire. The transmissions now occupy more than sixteen hours daily, and it can be said that when reception conditions are favourable a daily programme is available at a local evening listening time in all Colonial territories.

After a careful study of more than 25,000 reports submitted to the B.B.C. in 1933 and 1934, and in the light of greater experience of interests involved and existing conditions, many adjustments have been made in all departments of the service to bring it into line with the proved requirements of the overseas audience within the technical limitations of short-wave broadcasting.

Technical and programme development is constantly under review and the extensive technical tests which have been carried out since the inception of the service will be continued. It is known that improved reception conditions have already been experienced in many parts of the Empire, and it can be stated with confidence that no effort will be spared to provide the best possible service. The

"diversity" reception when conditions are favourable, but evidence shows that the percentage of time during which reception is good can be increased by this means. The B.B.C. will be glad to furnish technical details on request.

#### *Costs.*

Owing to the wide variation in material and labour charges in different parts of the Empire, it is not possible for the B.B.C. to give accurate costs for the installation of either system (B) or (C). Furthermore, the cost of a broadcasting transmitter will depend largely on the specification to which it is built, the type of building in which it is housed, the type of aerial system adopted, and the cost of land. Each installation should be considered, individually, and it is suggested that quotations to cover local requirements should be obtained from one or other of the British companies specializing in this work, namely, Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company or Standard Telephones and Cables.

In regard to the cost of the relaying receiver and its aerial system, which could be used with either system (B) or (C), it would seem that the type of receiver already supplied to Sierra Leone and at present on order for Accra is likely to meet requirements. The cost of this, as well as of the network of lines, etc., for a relay system (system (C)) will already be available to the Secretary of State, on the basis of the installation already made in Sierra Leone and of the one being installed at Accra.

Suitable additions to the cost will, of course, have to be made to take care of "diversity" or "spaced aerial" reception mentioned above.

February, 1935.



Enclosure 2 in Circular despatch dated 8th May, 1935.

NOTES CONCERNING BROADCAST RELAY SYSTEMS.

*Suitable Site.* One of the first considerations in connection with the installation of a Broadcast Relay Service is to obtain a suitable site for the erection of aerials and the installation of the receiving equipment and amplifiers.

It is desirable, where possible, that the Broadcast Relay Station should be installed in the centre of the area to be served, having regard to the questions of economy, e.g., in respect of the amount of live material required for distribution lines.

The station should be placed well away from sources of electrical interference such as interference caused by electric motors and dynamos and the ignition system of motor-cars. The noise produced by the latter type of interference can be particularly troublesome unless guarded against, but it is found that no appreciable interference is experienced if the receiving station can be placed about 200 yards from roads on which motor traffic is prevalent.

There should be a clear space for aerials and care should be taken to ensure that they are not screened by buildings or trees.

*Buildings.* Special buildings are not required. An empty bungalow can easily be made suitable for the installation of the equipment, but if local talent is to be broadcast in addition to overseas wireless stations a stone building is more suitable than a wooden one, owing to its acoustic properties.

A separate room should be utilized as a studio and so treated that there is no undue sound reflection from the walls. This condition can be obtained by lining the studio with  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch building board. Many preparations are on the market under the trade names of Tentest, Donnaconaboard, etc.

*Station Equipment.* The station equipment will usually consist of two short-wave receiving sets, microphones and microphone amplifier, gramophone turntable unit, control panel for regulating volume and containing switching arrangements and one or more power amplifiers.

The power amplifiers are operated from electric mains and the receiving sets from batteries. The receiving sets, however, can also be operated from electric mains if desired, in which case the battery charging panel would not be required. This question can be settled locally, but it is thought that battery-operated receiving sets are less noisy than mains-operated receiving sets.

*Distribution Lines.* In many cases economy can be effected by utilizing existing telephone poles for the purpose of carrying the broadcast distribution lines. The broadcast lines, however, should be spaced well away from existing telephone circuits in order to prevent induction or cross talk on the telephone system.

Assuming that the insulation of the telephone system is in a good condition, it has been found in practice that no interference takes place provided that the broadcast lines are placed approximately 3 feet away from telephone lines and transposed at intervals.

If existing telephone poles are not available, then separate poles must be installed, although in certain districts broadcast lines may be carried direct from house to house ; in this case way-leaves must be obtained from the owners of the property concerned.

*Area which can be served.* While the area which can be served from one station is limited it has been found that on a system of 1,000 subscribers good results have been obtained within a radius of 5 miles from the relay station.

It should be pointed out, however, that in certain conditions a further amplification station or sub-station is necessary.

For example :—

Assuming that a main relay station is installed in the centre of a district containing 500 subscribers and that 5 miles distant there is another district containing 500 subscribers, then in this latter district a further amplification station or sub-station would be necessary owing to the attenuation or loss of power entailed on a line feeding 500 subscribers at this distance. If, however, there were only, say, 50 subscribers in the latter district, then a further amplification station would not be necessary, as the loss of power is not appreciable for this number of subscribers.

These amplification stations or sub-stations can be controlled from one centre, i.e., the main relay station, and can be left unattended.

*Erection and Maintenance of Plant.* It is considered that a skilled European officer is necessary to supervise the erection and maintenance of a relay station. Local men can, however, be trained to relieve the European officer at intervals.

The broadcast distribution lines can usually be erected by the staff of the local telephone and telegraph department and when erected can be maintained by this department.

No special skill is called for under this head, as ordinary telephone practice is followed provided that the lines are erected as previously outlined.

*Cost of installing a Broadcast Relay System.* It is not possible to give the exact cost of introducing a Broadcast Relay System in a particular Colony, as the following local factors must be considered :—

- (i) Cost of labour.
- (ii) To what extent the poles of the local telephone system can be used.
- (iii) Whether the area to be served is scattered or otherwise.

For your guidance, however, I append the approximate costs of installing two relay systems in West Africa dealing with 1,000 and 500 subscribers respectively.

F. A. W. BYRON.  
Broadcast Officer, Accra.

*Relay System containing 1,000 Subscribers.*

	£
Internal equipment, including short-wave receivers, amplifiers, micro-phones, etc. ... ..	1,000
Line equipment, including poles, line wire, insulators, cross arms, etc. ...	1,300
1,000 loudspeakers complete with sockets and plugs ... ..	1,350*
Leading-in wire ... ..	50
Spares ... ..	100
Studio equipment, carpets, building board, etc. ... ..	100
Aerials ... ..	100
Labour ... ..	1,000
	<hr/>
	£5,000*



*Relay System containing 500 Subscribers.*

										£
Internal equipment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	800
Line equipment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	800
500 loudspeakers complete with sockets and plugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	675
Leading-in wire	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Spares ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Aerials ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Studio equipment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Labour ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	600
										<hr/>
										£3,150

*\*Colonial Office Note.*—It should be noted that revenue is obtained from the rents of the loudspeakers and the lines by subscribers. In the case of the Gold Coast, for example, where £3 per annum (a usual charge) is charged for this rent, the £3,000 revenue estimated to accrue will be more than sufficient to cover the annual recurring expenditure, including interest on capital and depreciation.

CIRCULAR.



Downing Street,

8th May, 1935.

Sir,

*Reas 6-4*

In my Circular despatch of the 7th of January, 1933, I reviewed the progress then made by the British Broadcasting Corporation with their Empire Broadcasting Service, and in my Circular despatch of the 16th of March, 1934, I dealt with one particular aspect of the question of Empire broadcasting, namely, the terms and conditions under which licences should be granted for the establishment of radio distribution centres in the Colonial dependencies. I attach great importance to securing that programmes of British origin should be increasingly available in these territories and the question has been closely engaging my attention, as I am anxious that no opportunity should be missed of stimulating progress in this matter.

2. To this end I enclose a memorandum prepared by the British Broadcasting Corporation dealing with recent developments in the Empire Broadcasting Service and the methods of reception which may be employed. As this memorandum explains, transmissions from the Empire Broadcasting Station at Daventry can be made available to listeners in the Colonies in three ways:—

(a) They can be picked up directly in the homes of listeners by those who possess short-wave receivers.

(b) They may be picked up at a central receiving station and re-broadcast from a local transmitting station, being subsequently picked up in the homes of listeners who have receivers suitable for local reception. This re-broadcasting may take place over a network of stations forming a broadcast system or from a station established for the purpose of relaying Empire programmes.

(c) They may be received at a central receiving station and transmitted from there over a line network (analogous to an ordinary telephone system) directly to the homes of the listeners. This system is now known technically as rediffusion.

The Officer Administering  
the Government of



*Stations such as those described at (b) and (c) serve also, of course, to broadcast local programmes.*

3. *With regard to (b) above, broadcast stations are already operated successfully by the Government in Hong Kong and Ceylon and by Cable and Wireless Limited in Kenya, and schemes for the establishment of broadcast stations by the Government or by private enterprise are under consideration in certain other territories. In Mauritius, local programmes are broadcast by a private licensee who, I understand, hopes, with the aid of new improved equipment, to re-broadcast Empire programmes. Local broadcasting is carried out in Fiji by Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited and in Malaya by private bodies at Singapore, Penang, and Kuala Lumpur, but I am not aware that the equipment in these places is designed to receive and re-broadcast the transmissions from the Empire station at Daventry. With regard to method (c), the Government wireless exchanges have been operating with considerable success in the Falkland Islands and Sierra Leone, a similar station is about to be set up in the Gold Coast, and an experimental Government station has been operating in Nigeria and is about to be replaced by a regular Government rediffusion service. Rediffusion by private enterprise has been undertaken in Gibraltar and Barbados, the licences being based on the model enclosed in my Circular despatch of the 16th of March, 1934. In the case of Gibraltar, the Governor has reported that the reception leaves little to be desired and the results obtained are noticeably superior to those which can be obtained locally with a wireless receiving set of moderate price.*

4. *I wish to invite special attention to the advantages of a rediffusion system for those territories where for various reasons the establishment of a broadcast station may not yet be practicable. The success of the Falkland Islands and Sierra Leone Governments in this connection is gratifying, and it seems to me that there must be few Colonial administrations which, in the absence of other arrangements, should not find it possible to follow their example. In the hope that it may be of assistance in such cases I have obtained from Mr. Byron, the Broadcast Officer responsible for the setting up of the Sierra Leone and Gold Coast rediffusion services, the enclosed note setting out the technical and practical considerations involved in the erection of such a station. The receiving equipment in these Colonies has been installed in accordance with specifications prepared by the British Broadcasting Corporation, which have been*

passed to the Consulting Engineers to the Crown Agents for the Colonies and are therefore available to all Colonial administrations. I enclose also an interesting account by Sir Arnold Hodson of the inauguration of the Sierra Leone service.

5. It is, I think, unnecessary for me to detail the reasons which impel me to attach such great importance to the increased reception in the Colonial dependencies of programmes of British origin; many of them are obvious and need no elaboration. There is, however, one aspect of the question the importance of which may be underestimated. I refer to the opportunities offered to listeners assembled in masses and groups to take part in ceremonial and similar occasions of high importance in which, in circumstances psychologically favourable, they may be impressed with a more vivid realization of their connexion with the Empire. As an instance of what I have in mind, I enclose an extract from the Sierra Leone "Weekly News" descriptive of the reception there of the broadcast of the marriage of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Kent and Princess Marina. Other instances which I recall are the Empire Christmas broadcasts and especially His Majesty's personal message, and messages broadcast by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Governor and others on great local occasions such as the Falkland Islands and St. Helena centenary celebrations in February, 1933, and April, 1934, respectively, and the opening of Haifa harbour in October, 1933.

6. You are of course fully sensible of the fact that broadcasting is being increasingly used in this country and elsewhere as an instrument not only of pleasure but also of education. This is one of its aspects which should receive the most careful attention of those administrations which have available local means of broadcast. The enclosed extract from the Report for 1933 of the Director of Education in Ceylon gives some account of what is being done there in this way, and I should be obliged if administrations which have had or may have similar experiences in the utility of broadcasting as an aid to administration, whether in the field of education or in other fields such as agriculture and public health, which they feel might be usefully communicated to other administrations, would furnish me with an account of these experiments.

7. A promising experiment of this kind has been submitted to me by the Palestine Government in connexion with the forthcoming establishment of a



Government broadcasting station there. It is proposed that receivers should be installed in 100 out of 171 villages in Palestine, of a population in excess of 1,000, and that these villages should be selected by the District Commissioners in consultation with the Postmaster-General, the receivers being installed in the village schools or guest-houses, or other suitable places. With regard to programmes, it is intended that not less than one hour of the Palestine broadcasting programme should be devoted to subjects suitable for Arab villages. The details of this scheme for rural broadcasting are at present under consideration by me, but the idea is one which I would commend to your attention. If, as I hope, it should prove possible to carry out the experiment in Palestine, I shall arrange for a report in due course to be furnished for transmission to Colonial Governments.

8. In conclusion I must observe that this despatch is intended to be suggestive rather than comprehensive. The problems of broadcasting vary in each territory, and the methods of dealing with these problems must necessarily vary also. I have attempted to throw out a number of suggestions based on experience in territories of widely differing circumstances, and it is my hope that you may find among them something of value to you in your consideration of the particular local problems which confront you in connexion with broadcasting.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.