

## Hard Work for ITU in the USA Title 69 B

As I had been invited for a 60 days visit and as there were so many people and institutions which I wanted to contact, I decided to split my invitation and to spend the first 30 days on the East coast and the second part in the Middle and West of the American Continent. On my second day, Sunday 5 January 1964, I visited in the morning the Air and Space Collection (Not yet the Museum) of the Smithsonian Institution and the Pre-Columbian Collection at Dumbarton Oaks. For these two museums alone, it was worth crossing the Atlantic.

The week was hardly long enough to see all, and so I began with the Telecommunication experts of the State Department, my sponsors. Years later they showed me in their own building the unique and special Disaster Office which had world wide communication facilities. My diary of the time is crowded with appointments at the Department of Commerce, the Pentagon, NASA, FCC and the British Embassy. From Washington I flew to New York by Shuttle, another fascinating innovation for me, and went from LaGuardia Airport by limousine to New Haven, Connecticut, where my old friend Derek Price had invited me for the weekend. [See Title 404]

Derek Price, one of the greatest historians of science, was by then Avalon Professor of the History of Science and Medicine at Yale University. He was the first to discover and mathematically describe the 'Exponential Growth of Science' and I could discuss with him the exponential growth of communications, through telegraph, telephone, radio and television, during the 100 year period which was covered in my book. I learnt a great deal from him at the time, which later found its way into the text of my book.

The next two weeks were divided between New York and Washington, with visits to Bell Laboratories, COMSAT and INTELSAT, being the most important. Then on to Cape Kennedy with Geoffrey Brigstocke, and after a few days there, he had to return to Washington, whereas I flew on to Miami and San Juan in Puerto Rico where I took part in the ARECIBO Conference and saw the giant radio-telescope buried below ground level in its hollow.

The reason for this was an invitation by Tommy Gold FRS, the Professor of Astronomy at Cornell University, an old friend who had been interned with me in Canada. Near San Juan he had directed the construction of a very large radio telescope, using for this purpose a natural hollow in the ground which was covered internally with wire netting. From three large towers on the rim of the hollow, a steerable receiver was suspended at its centre, at the focus 'for electromagnetic radiation coming from the universe'. It had not yet been fully constructed and I remember climbing into the receiver station, 100 m above the ground, without any safety guides. I returned to London via Lisbon in February 1964.