

Report on International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Meeting, Frankfurt June 24-30, 1984

By Barry C. Detwiler

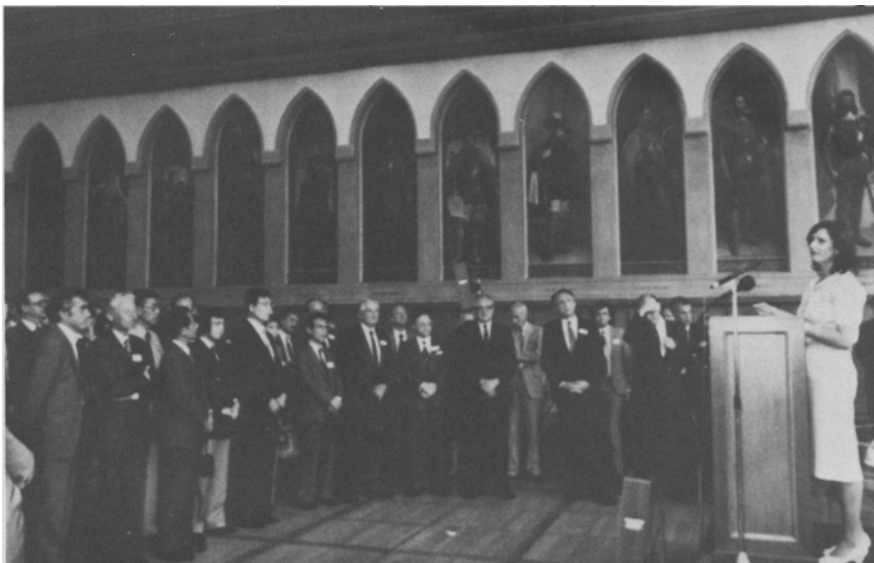
A meeting of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), hosted by the German National Committee, was held in Frankfurt, Federal Republic of Germany, June 24-30, 1984. The IEC, which has its central office in Geneva, Switzerland, provides world standards for the electrical and electronics industry, including some areas of television.

Delegates from 17 nations — Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, France, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, the United States, and Yugoslavia — attended the technical committee and working group meetings.

The U.S. National Committee (USNC) delegation consisted of Bernard Dickens, CBS Broadcast Group; M. Carlos Kennedy, Ampex Corp.; Norman Ritter, 3M Co.; Joseph Roizen, Telegen; M. Eggerss, 3M Co.; Leonard Feldman, consultant; E. J. Foster, Diversified Science Laboratories; and Barry Detwiler, SMPTE, in the field of video recording. John Jenkins, International Tapetronics Corp., and H. D. Kristensen, Ampex Corp., represented the audio recording area. Mr. Jenkins was chief delegate for the U.S. on the recording (TC 60) committee, while Mr. Ritter and Mr. Jenkins served in this capacity for the subcommittees on video and audio recording, respectively. Also with the U.S. delegation were J. Wilshusen, Purdue University, and R. Wyman, University of Massachusetts.

Summary of Work

In terms of technical work accomplished, good progress was made at the meetings. The Audio Recording Subcommittee, SC 60A, chaired by Cecil Henocq, reported that much of its task of standardizing analog sound recording has been completed and that future SC 60A work will be concerned primarily with digital audio recording systems.



An interpreter speaks on behalf of the Lord Mayor of Frankfurt in the city hall, surrounded by portraits of past monarchs.

The Video Recording Subcommittee, SC 60B, chaired by Frederick Remley, University of Michigan, has not yet finished the work of standardizing analog video recording systems, for either tape or disk. In fact, a new domestic VTR format was submitted to SC 60B at the Frankfurt meeting — the 8mm format developed in Japan. So far as digital recording systems are concerned, no proposals have been received as yet by SC 60B. However, it is expected that the work now being performed by the EBU, CCIR, and the SMPTE will result in format choices that will be submitted to SC 60B before the next meeting.

Video Recording SC 60B — Items of Interest

Working Group 3: Measurement

The group has completed the chroma-noise measurement document. A questionnaire on reference tapes will be circulated. In this case, a reference tape is a tape with defined nominal magnetic characteristics; it is not an adjustment tape with signals recorded upon it. Another questionnaire will be distributed concerning measuring methods for digital and component-analog recording systems.

Working Group 5: Non-Broadcast VTRs

It was decided (after extensive discussion in both SC 60B and TC 60) to circulate the 8mm VTR format proposal from Japan as a Secretariat document. This document poses a special problem because the format may result in objections from SECAM countries. Hence, the "Accelerated Procedure" was rejected by TC 60. A new version of the document, "Measuring Methods for Colour Under VTRs," will be distributed. A questionnaire will be circulated asking for information on time-base errors due to slow-motion and still-frame operation of domestic VTRs.

Working Group 7: Broadcast VTRs

Several documents updating present IEC publications involving Type-B, Type-C, and time-code formats were finished and submitted for printing. A thorough review of the present status of digital video recording was completed. Questionnaires on the 1/4-in. system and on high-band U-format systems will be issued. The proposed Type-L and Type-M 1/2-in. professional formats will be circulated as documents.

Working Group 8: Videodisks for Non-Broadcast Use

Several modifications to the Laservision documents will be circulated. A document characterizing the videodisk systems for Laservision and VHD will also be circulated. The U.S. proposal on the CED format was tabled because of the announcement that the players would no longer be produced for this format, and because no expert was present to answer questions about the contribution. However, it remains an item of work for consideration in the future.

SC 60B decided to specify, in all future documents, that mechanical parameters be measured at an ambient temperature of $20 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ (68°F).

Social Functions

On Wednesday evening, the delegates were officially welcomed at the city hall by a representative of the Lord Mayor, Dr. Wallmann of Frankfurt-am-Main. The welcoming speech was delivered in a hall filled with paintings of ruling monarchs dating from the time when Frankfurt was the capital of a large portion of



(L-R) Joseph Roizen, M. Carlos Kennedy, Bernard Dickens, and Fred Remley were among those at the BASF dinner.

what is now Germany. It praised the work of the IEC, and mentioned in particular Herbert Farmer, chairman of TC 84 equipment and systems, and W. Habermann (of the Federal Republic of Germany), chairman of TC 60.

On Thursday, a dinner party was hosted by BASF, A.G., to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of magnetic recording. In June 1934, the "Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik" at Ludwigshafen-am-Rhein, had produced and delivered the first 5000 m of a total order of 50,000 m (16,400 ft) of the world's first magnetic recording tape to AEG-Telefunken.

The tape had been developed previously by Oberlin Smith of the U.S., and Waldemar Paulsen of Denmark. The dinner was held at the Gutsschaenke Neuhof Restaurant on the outskirts of the city.

Roland J. Zavada, chairman of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Image Technology Standards Board, attended the Frankfurt meetings as one of the representatives of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to the special task force meeting for the coordination between IEC and ISO of future developments in "imagery standards."

SECTION MEETINGS

Atlanta, June 29 — William Powers, Sony Broadcast Products, presented a hands-on demonstration of the Sony 1/2-in. Newsmaker camera/VTR. The unit weighs less than 9 lb and is compatible with the Betacam system. The meeting was held at WSB-TV. Following the presentation, Douglas Henderson and the WSB-TV staff conducted tours of the newly remodeled facility, including editing suites, master control area, studios, and an audio sweetening room. — John F. Swanson (Secretary-Treasurer), Cox Communications, P.O. Box 10537, Atlanta, GA 30348.

Rocky Mountain, May 17 — Sixty-five members and guests were introduced to the updated world of video-based computer graphics by John Switzer, vice-president, Z-Axis. Switzer began the presentation by describing the establishment of the firm and its service to the development of television special effects. He then intro-

duced the staff members of Z-Axis, each of whom described his special area of activity. A videotape, which provided information about Z-Axis through computerized animation, was shown. This tape was followed by others that had been made for various corporations and broadcast stations.

The next event was a tour of the facility. Z-Axis is equipped with a Bosch FGS-4000 computer graphics system, an Ampex AVC computer-controlled production video switcher, an Ampex computerized editing system (ACE), three Ampex VPR-3 1-in. videotape machines, Ampex digital optics (ADO), a Tektronix computerized video analysis system, an NEC color graphics camera, a Soundcraft audio mixing console, and an Otari 1/4-in. audio deck. The entire system is integrated in accordance with the SMPTE RP-113 interface to provide for the creative requirements of animators and art directors while maintaining the highest technical standards. — Donna Zingelman (Sec-

retary-Treasurer), Audio-Visual Concepts, 558 South Swadley St., Lakewood, CO 80228.

Rocky Mountain, June 22 — The guest speaker at the Rocky Mountain Section's Annual Awards Banquet, held at the Lakewood Country Club, was Warren Chandler, who spoke first about his career in broadcasting, and then about his recent trip to China and the insights he gained there. Chandler is a well-known television personality, having appeared on Denver TV for almost 30 years. A multimedia presentation on China and Chandler's remarkable photographs, plus his beautiful narration made this a memorable occasion.

Awards for outstanding service, presented at the banquet by Chairman Jeff Grazi, went to Secretary-Treasurer Donna Zingelman, and Membership Chairman Herbert Banister. Past-Chairman Arthur Rancis then presented Grazi with an award in appreciation for his hard work and dedication to the section. Davis Audio Visual Co., Interactive Video Systems, Tektronix, and Western Cine were mentioned with appreciation for their assistance and support in making arrangements for the banquet. — Donna Zingleman (Secretary-Treasurer), Audio Visual Concepts, 558 South Swadley St., Lakewood, CO 80228.