

Report of The ARISS Educational Outreach/School Selection Committee

for the December 2002 ARISS Meeting
at Goddard Space Flight Center

by Rosalie White, K1STO, Committee Chair

Members of The ARISS Educational Outreach/School Selection Committee:

- ◆ Valery Agabekov
 - ◆ Jorg Hahn
 - ◆ Keigo Komuro
 - ◆ Daniel Lamoureux
 - ◆ Rosalie White (Committee Chair)
- ◆ Others invited to attend meetings are: Scott Anderson (for Debbie Brown), Frank Bauer, Gaston Bertels (for Jorg Hahn), Debbie Brown, Alexandr Lazutkin and Marilyn Steinberg (Canadian Space Agency).

Committee Highlights Covering Business from June - Nov. 2002:

- ◆ Five meetings were held since our ARISS-International meeting last Spring in Canada.
- ◆ The committee voted that it is acceptable for school applications to be submitted in languages other than English, but a duplicate application must also be submitted in English; QSOs are done in English. Daniel forwards his school applications to Marilyn Steinberg at the Canadian Space Agency so that she may be kept informed on schools' interest.

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Committee Highlights, June - Nov. 2002 (continued)

- ◆ Committee members continue to forward school applications and prioritized school lists they have approved, plus annotate older school applications (that were approved earlier) with updated information. Rosalie sends these to the ARISS Ops Committee.
- ◆ Keigo reported there is only a slight possibility that ARISS activity will be done by the Japanese astronaut on the January 2003 Taxi Flight, due to his heavy workload for the ULF-1 mission. Keigo reported on the Tokyo Ham Fair and school videos, which resulted in another teacher submitting an application.

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Committee Highlights, June - Nov. 2002 (continued)

- ◆ At each teleconference a report was given on ARISS QSOs done by the current crew.
- ◆ Daniel voiced concerns that a few schools might perform very few of the educational activities listed on their ARISS application. This has sometimes happened, but often those teachers initiate good classroom activities months after a QSO.
- ◆ The committee held discussions on 3rd party issues -- highlights follow.
 - **Rosalie worked with the ARRL General Counsel to get his rendering on how special authorizations from various countries could mesh with US rules for NA1SS.
 - **Jorg contacted the Deutscher ARC and N.Notthoff of AMSAT-DL who promised to take the 3rd party issue to the German RegTP, and ask the agency to write a letter. This letter could be carried by the ARRL General Counsel to the US Department of State (DoS). The letter would state that based on the German educational license, the RegTP would welcome signing a waiver with the DoS for ARISS 3rd party QSOs, based on the QSOs: 1) are educational in nature, 2) are for youths, & 3) only occur on an occasional basis. Jorg has no further news; Gaston will report further.
 - **Valery obtained current Russian radio rules, and will report on this.

Committee Highlights, June - Nov. 2002 (continued)

- ◆ International Telecommunications Union (ITU) rules currently prohibit 3rd party operations between 2 countries unless each has signed a bilateral treaty (or special arrangements) allowing 3rd party:
 - *Article 25.3 It is absolutely forbidden for amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties.
 - *Article 25.4 The preceding provisions may be modified by special arrangements between the administrations of the countries concerned.
- ◆ 3rd party bilateral treaties or waivers are signed by government agencies responsible for posts and telecommunications.
- ◆ A unilateral decision by one country to allow 3rd party is a good first step. But until a treaty or waiver is signed by the second country, 3rd party operations by hams in either country violates the ITU Article 25.3.
- ◆ Frank is the trustee for NA1SS. He is held responsible for NA1SS operations.

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Committee Highlights, June - Nov. 2002 (continued)

- ◆ NASA has contacted Frank and Rosalie in the past when NASA received Congressional Inquiries about ham radio. The ARISS Team must ensure all rules are followed; our space agencies could easily decide they do not need the ARISS program if problems result from ARISS operations.
- ◆ Ken Pulfer told us that the June 2003 World Radio Conference (WRC-03), may change the ITU 3rd party rules.
- ◆ WRC is studying options that would *allow 3rd party unless a country chose to prohibit it*. Ken asks each Delegate to work through your IARU and AMSAT groups -- ask them to lobby your country's administrations to support at WRC-03, the deletion of 3rd party restrictions from the regulations.
- ◆ Such change would remove the requirement and burden for governments to create bilateral or multi-lateral international agreements that permit 3rd party operations.

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Committee Highlights, June - Nov. 2002 (continued)

- ◆ If WRC-03 changes the ITU 3rd party rules, it may take time for each country's telecomm agency to revise its rules to reflect the ITU changes.
- ◆ We know the best scenario for ARISS QSOs is when students and ISS crew are all licensed hams.
 - *An example was the Japanese Iruma Children's School -- a QSO with Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, was completed by 14 children who all had Amateur Radio licenses and belonged to club station JK1ZAM.
- ◆ The second best scenario for ARISS is when a licensed ISS crew member speaks with unlicensed school children from that crew member's home country.
 - *An example was the Royal Technical School in Belgium -- a QSO with Frank DeWinne, ON1DWN, was completed with Belgian students.

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Committee Highlights, June - Nov. 2002 (continued)

- ◆ The third best scenario is if a government issues a license for youths to use, in place of a waiver or bilateral agreement, and the licensed ISS crew member's country has no complaint with the use of the special youth license.

*An example was the Netherlands Boy & Girl Scouts -- they completed a QSO with Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD. Gaston had forwarded to Rosalie an authorization from the Dutch Regulatory Telecommunications Authority giving approval for Netherlands Scouts to speak with ARISS licensed astronauts. Rosalie conferred with ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay for his interpretation of the Dutch authorization, and to forward it to the US agency; it did not object to the authorization.

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Committee Highlights, June - Nov. 2002 (continued)

- ◆ It can take years for 2 countries to finalize and sign a bilateral treaty or waiver.
- ◆ ARRL has worked with the Department of State (DoS) on paperwork required for the USA side of bilateral agreements.
 - *In recent years, the DoS prepared paperwork after ARRL alerted them of a country's interest in waivers, but the other country never sent anything to DoS.
 - *This wasted DoS staff time -- the DoS then stipulated it would not start paperwork until it received from the other country a letter stating interest in a bilateral waiver.
- ◆ ARRL is very willing to assist hams in other countries by working with the DoS. Hams in other countries should start with their posts and telecommunications agency, requesting a letter of interest to send to the DoS. ARRL is willing to deliver such a letter to the DoS, to ease the process.

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Committee Highlights, June - Nov. 2002

◆ The letter should state that:

- *the arrangement between countries is temporary, for the duration of QSOs with the ISS, done only occasionally by schools.

- *the arrangement would waive a rule or would grant approval to allow 3rd party messages via Amateur Radio, between the ISS crew and Amateur Radio stations that are assisting non-ham school children in <name of a country> to speak about educational topics.

- *the waiver could give approval for a club license that considers children without ham licenses as not being third parties.

- *no compensation would be paid directly or indirectly for the communications.

- *such communications would be limited to conversations or messages of an educational or personal nature, and because of their unimportance, using the public telecommunications service is not justified.

- *each Amateur Radio station involved in the communications, would at all times be controlled by licensed Amateur Radio operators.

End of Report