

SOME LEGAL ASPECTS OF SATELLITE TELEVISION

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ABSTRACT

The International Telecommunication Union Regulations¹ reflect the genius of the people to whom they apply. Telecommunication Regulations develop imperceptibly from usage and therefore reflect the aims and the aspirations of the United Nations. Direct STV² is one example where nations unite themselves through the INTELSAT and share information almost instantaneously. Telecommunication law is a product of these aims and aspirations: to regulate and control the use of Telecoms System through legal means. It has and will continue to play a vital role in STV for promoting ideas through TV³ programmes. How these are achieved and regulated is the central issue of this paper.

Legislation has in many respects, affected the administration of STV transmission, its broadcast and even the establishment of a TV station. The modern technology, has made it possible that others may reap what they did not sow.

¹ Last August the ITU called a six-week meeting of 1000 delegates from 140 countries. The sole purpose: to seek an order over the use of a thin band encircling the earth where a growing fleet of geostationary satellites are positioned. It aims to ensure that all countries have equitable access to that zone which is already packed by 130 satellites: Reuter via BERNAMA Teleks on 10.8.1985

² Satellite Television

³ Television

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This Paper aims to examine some national and international problems created by the transmission and reception of STV. It also seeks to highlight the possibilities of TV transmissions being pirated by a non-subscribing nations through illegal interception of the signal polarisation; and some of the preventive measures and penalties imposed under the Intelsat Agreement.

The Paper hopes to enlighten its readers with the present state of technology available for direct STV transmission; and as a corollary to this, it will examine the effectiveness of International Regulation¹ to regulate, limit or prohibit the use of STV by the Parties. The study will focus especially on Intelsat Agreement, Radio TV Regulations and the existing Telecommunication² Regulations. Some legal aspects

¹ i.e. An Agreement Relating to "Intelsat"

² Telecommunications also include Television and Radio-broadcasting.

of Domsat and recent innovations have been included.
This will lead us to examine if the present law need any
changes for future development of STV communications.

B. SCOPE AND AREA OF STUDY

This study is centred on the control over the increasing
use of STV; the international legal arrangements between
the existing 109 - members countries of the Intelsat¹;
and the present state of STV technology available. Its
main area is to examine the effectiveness of the
present regulations as a means of controlling the
operation of STV communication and use of air space² -
including the manufacture or importation of its related
equipment, the modes of settling disputes between
Parties and penalties for contravention of the law.

C RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data collected are mainly based on primary sources.
This includes group discussions and personal interviews.

¹ Malaysia is one of the signatories to the Intelsat
Agreement.

² Equator - Synchronous - see definition...