



THE UN RADIO TEAM: From left, Gerald Kean, United States (English Language Service); Dmitri Safanov, Soviet Union (Russian Language Section); W. Gibson Parker, United Kingdom (Radio Production); General Frank Stoner, United States (Tele-Communications); Peter Aylen, Canada (Director of the Division); George Ivan Smith, Australia (English Language Service); Mike Peng, China (Trans-Pacific Service); G. Obhrai, India (assistant editor, Central News Desk); Paul Bouchon, France (French Language Section); Eugenio Soler, Cuba (Latin American Service); Hugh Williams, New Zealand (European and Middle Eastern Service) .

RADIO'S INTERNATIONAL TEAM

UN Division Described by New Zealander

WE hear to-day so much of international discord that when A. H. W. Williams had been to see me I felt as though a fresh spring breeze had run through my office. For he spent over an hour telling me how some 80 people of over 20 nationalities were working harmoniously together at Lake Success—in the United Nations Radio Division. His visit had been intended as a brief courtesy call to thank *The Listener* for mention it had made from time to time about the radio service in *Shortwave Highlights* and elsewhere but by postponing a later engagement he was able to stay and describe the work the service was doing and explain how he, a New Zealander, happened to be with UN Radio.

Hugh Williams comes from Dunedin, where, after being educated at Otago University, he taught as a language master before going to a similar post in England. During the war years he was with the European Service of the BBC, first as one of the supervisors of foreign broadcasts—in French, German and Italian—and then, when the BBC divided the administration of this department on a language basis, he became manager of the French service, an appointment he held for three and a-half years. In October, 1945, he went to the Radio Division of the United Nations Department of Public Information as officer in charge of broadcasts to Europe and the Middle East.

The division had over 80 people on the staff, representing more than 20 different nationalities and they were a "very happy team," he said. The director was a Canadian, Peter Aylen, formerly supervisor of the CBC International Service; the deputy-director was the Chilean explorer and aviator, Carlos Garcia-Palacios, who used to be

with the League of Nations Secretariat. Under their direction were Williams and his associates, who included W. Gibson Parker, formerly European producer-director for the BBC (in which capacity he was one of those who organised the D-Day broadcast), who was chief of production; George Ivan Smith, former director of talks for the ABC and later director of the Pacific Service of the BBC, who was in charge of English-

language programmes; Lo-Shan ("Mike") Peng, of China, who was in charge of Pacific broadcasts; and Eugenio Soler of Cuba, who was responsible for Latin-American transmissions. And with a Netherlands man, H. R. van Stuwe as deputy-chief of production, an American, Gerald Kean, as supervisor-producer of the English section, and a Russian, Dmitri Safanov, and a Frenchman, Paul M. Bouchon, as supervisor-producers of

Russian and French broadcasts in the European service for which Williams was responsible, the Radio Division even at top level had a notably international character.

All the different sections broadcast news, interviews, background talks and feature programmes. In addition, the proceedings of the General Assembly, the Security Council and other important UN organisations were broadcast on shortwave to Europe and the Middle

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A BILINGUAL (French and English) UN radio commentator broadcasting from the radio booth in the Security Council Chamber, while a radio reporter (left) takes notes for a news bulletin and an engineer controls the transmission