



IBEW Works Around the Clock To Show UN Summit Around the World

The historic Summit of the United Nations in September featured 187 member states, 104 heads of state, 45 heads of government, three crown princes—and members of IBEW Local 1212, New York, New York, working around the clock to distribute video and audio of all of the events in and around UN Headquarters in New York.

Starting September 6, the events ran 16 hours a day for three days. The 189 member nations were urged to send the highest possible official to the Summit, and all but two nations, Yugoslavia and Palau, were represented. The topic was “making the UN a more effective servant of the world’s peoples,” with emphasis on poverty and environmental degradation.

From Bill Clinton to Fidel Castro to Vladimir Putin to Yasser Arafat to Prince Albert, they all came. Never in history had so many world leaders gathered in one place at one time for one goal.

They all met in the General Assembly Hall, but some met in the Security Council Chamber, in small conference rooms in small groups and in press conference rooms. They even stopped to shake hands with each other, as did Clinton and Castro.

All this was packed into just three days and fed live for the whole world to see. Every minute of every day was recorded for history, with every word translated into all of the official languages of the United Nations.

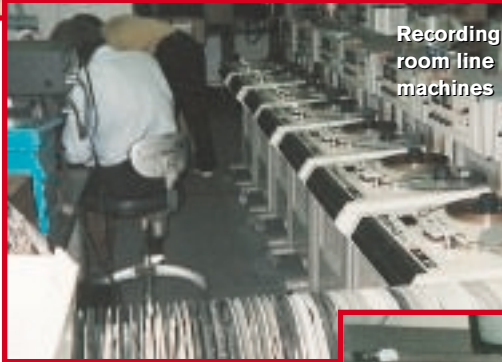
Local 1212 has been on the scene since 1946 when the first technician started working at the United Nations. Local 1212 technicians are responsible for distribution of video and audio of all the events in and around the headquarters. Local 1212 has 70 full-time technicians on staff at the UN through a contract with E-J Electric Installation Co. However, full-time technicians were not nearly enough to handle the Summit job. The extremely difficult task of hiring 50 additional technicians was handled with great cooperation between Local 1212 Business Manager Peter Quaranta, Assistant Business Manager Vinny Butler and E-J Electric President Tony Mann.

The normal daily coverage of the UN had to continue during the installation of special Summit equipment, a process that began August 28. Under the leadership of Supervisors Ray Jask and Jan Hall, in cooperation with Alain Moerenhout, chief of the UN broadcast support section, Local 1212 members had to install High Definition equipment—including a High Definition mobile van. The equipment was supplied by NHK of Tokyo.

Installation included 27 studio cameras, three hand-held DVCPRO electronic news gathering teams, rental videotape equipment, along with rental switchers and camera control units. The main television studio was turned into a television master control center. This was made possible by the work of Local 1212 team members: Technical Directors of Television Operations Phil Mango and Brian Walshe,



Left, IBEW Local 1212 member Peter Kurisko edits a UN radio program on the Sonic Solution computer.



Recording room line machines



Julie Parisi of Local 1212 records for the UN archives



Sub switcher for one of the four programs

Senior Video Barry Gelberg, Audio Technician Victor Tom, and a Video Operation Team of Enzo Bartoccioli, Damien Corrigan, Jim Fasino, Gary Roth, Al Brown, Richard Lipton, Aubrey Smith and Franc Juvan.

The videotape department had to increase its capacity from a normal two- or three-event menu to a system of four switched program feeds, four isolated camera feeds, an add-on rental switcher and recording setup, multiple feed requirements on Betacam Sp, Digital Betacam and DVCPRO formats.

And it was all live, all recording continuously for 14 hours a day. In addition to the mastering of all the live events, individual VHS tapes had to be made of every speaker, with duplication of videotape on an "emergency basis" for outside clients. Two Betacam SP editing rooms were on standby and used for quick editing of material needed for some of the satellite feeds.

All this was put together under the guidance of Technical Director for Videotape Operations Charles Rini, Recording Coordinator Mark Robbins and an equipment installation and maintenance team of Edwin Morales, Eddie Gullod and

Perry Levine. The videotape team included Editors Karin Litzmann and Tony Sutera, and the recording team was made up of Brian Osborn, Chris Miceli, John Molinaro, Lou Cadero and Cheryl Taylor.

One of the larger UN conference rooms was set aside as an international media center for distribution of video and audio. Crews from around the world came to record their heads of state. They assembled their equipment in the conference room and were supplied one of the 50 different video feeds in the North American standard NTSC and the European standard PAL, plus the 100 channels of audio. This difficult task was set up and operated by Local 1212 team member Danny Baron. The video maintenance was done by Technical Director David Knorr and team members Mohammad Asif, Dom Dorman and Reese Virgin.

E-J Electric Installation Company and

Local 1212 had to operate, distribute, record and maintain the audio from the many conference rooms throughout the complex. Most of the rooms were needed to handle audio for up to 187 delegations, with translation into any of the six official languages and some unofficial languages.

All audio was recorded for historical archives, fed live to the world through different forms of media and edited for UN programs using computer based Sonic Solutions. That job fell onto the shoulders of the audio maintenance team: Technical Director Al Glovich, Crew Chief Miron Vislocky and technicians Nick Caputo, Craig Holderbaum, Don Holness, Steve Kureczko, Ray Soreca, Steve Turbe and Mark Yun.

The conference technicians were Technical Directors George Baker and Ken Graham, with the operations team of Jeff Ader, Manny Arce, Mathew Benjamin, Lisa Borgese, Siu Chin, Jim Dougherty, Joe Gallo, Mark Gershuny, Sylvester Lewis, Local 1212 Executive Board member Jan Marino, Rosemary Starr, Brian Thomas, Orlando Torres, Ray Wu and Bill Wu. The recording room team was led by Crew Chief Vinny Butler, with team members A. Carby, Freddy Chambers, Julia Parisi, Howard Silberberg and Fritz Bellan. The distribution team included Pat Greenwood and Chris Monte.

The radio section that handled the editing and feeding of the program material for radio stations around the world was headed by Technical Director Nanci Hersh and Crew Chief Linford Anderson, with editors Willie Correa, Goldie James, Peter Kurisko, Julio Matinich, Moses Nagel, Sally O'Brien, Hermes Rivera and Marlow Saady.

This historic international event was indeed UNION MADE IN AMERICA. The staff of E-J Electric Installation Company, members of IBEW Local 1212, were proud to be in the forefront of this moving experience. The brothers and sisters of Local 1212 gave the whole world an insight into the leaders of the new millennium. ■

All photos are by John Molinaro, Local 1212.