



# Looking Back

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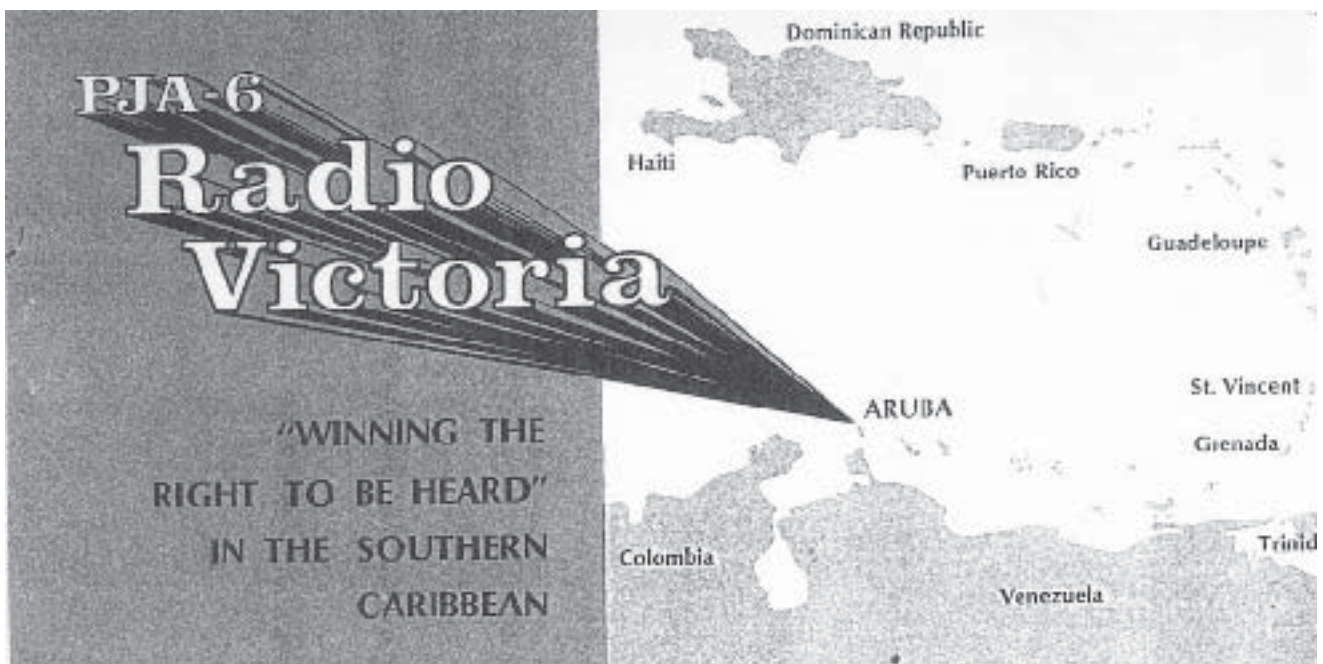
*Looking Back is a nostalgic reflection on the shortwave scene of yesteryears, written from the personal experience of the author, who has been DXing the shortwave bands for over seven decades.*

## DUTCH AMERICA

Well, yes, everybody has heard of Bonaire, right? But "Dutch America" implies more than the Radio Nederland Wereldomroep relay station. Often forgotten in the public mind, the Dutch were explorers of some renown in the past, and their colonization in the West Indies and Surinam should be remembered, if only with affection for some nice DX catches on the dial.

Surinam (Dutch Guiana) has had a SW voice for a long time, with a government station transmitting for years from Paramaribo. In 1946 they were using 325 watts on 5757 kHz, callsign PZH5. This one was well heard both in Europe and North America.

Nowadays the shortwave operation from Surinam is Radio Apinte, a private, commercial station, heard in North America in good propagation conditions, with a steady "diet" of pop music and announcements in the Dutch language. They also broadcast in Hindi and Javanese dialects. Verification is by letter. In past years they would sometimes send a pennant.



From the Caribbean, apart from the Bonaire relay, we have an "oldie", PJC2, broadcasting from Willemstad, on the island of Curaçao. In 1950 they transmitted on 5017 kHz with 3 kW. The station slogan was "Juliana Zender", named after the Royal Princess/Queen.

A further station was located in Aruba and broadcast only on mediumwave. This was a religious station and is long gone. I do not have further details at hand.

The "biggie", of course, is Bonaire, where both Radio Netherlands and Trans World Radio have operated. The "Island of Flamingos" seems to have been suitable for high power broadcasting, with levels of 100 to 300 kW being used. Radio Netherlands continues to transmit from Bonaire (see Target Listening), but Trans World Radio signed off permanently several years ago.

Illustrations: top - QSL from PJC-2 "Juliana Zender", bottom - Gouvernemts Radio Dienst, Surinam, 5757 kHz

