

Summaries and notices

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Influence of terrain reflections on noise in frequency-modulated broadband radio links over passive reflectors

by H. Doswald, Berne

Each transmission with radio relay systems over passive repeaters is subject to some multipath propagation due to reflections from the environment of the passive relay site. The following article examines the influence of this multipath propagation on non-linear distortions in frequency modulated broadband radio link systems, and shows how the impact of the passive relay and its environment on the transmission quality can be measured and calculated.

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The central bureau for radio and television transmissions

by H. Sommerhalder, Berne

Each country has a central bureau, internationally referred to as 'Service centralisateur', whose duty it is to coordinate all radio and television transmissions reaching the country. It accepts orders from national radio and television broadcasting corporations, from foreign administrations and private parties, and forwards these orders to the executive offices for attention, in conformity with national and international regulations. This article describes the principal tasks and the functioning of the 'Service centralisateur' of the Swiss PTT.

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A satellite communication system for Europe

by G. Buttex, Berne

A study, based on work undertaken jointly with ESRO and UER, of a possible regional satellite communication system was published by CEPT in July 1971. This article describes the telecommunication mission to be fulfilled by the system and presents some new solutions: space vehicle stabilized on three axes, use of frequencies exceeding

10 GHz, new telecommunication techniques, earth station network, management of the system. It also goes into the problem of the system's reliability, compares its economics with those of the terrestrial network, and highlights some of its advantages and disadvantages for the users.

News Items

Posts

In future the **PTT Electronic Computing Centre** will register all **objects found on PTT premises** and send an inventory to the central lost-property office twice a week.

Measures being taken against the **prevailing lack of space at the Zurich-Sihlpost postal centre** include the erection of a temporary 4-5-storey multipurpose building by 1976.

Telephone

For news media covering the **visit of the Emperor and Empress of Japan** to Switzerland on 10 and 11 October, Swiss PTT provided additional telecommunication facilities, among them 10 temporary satellite circuits to Tokyo. Television live broadcasts were arranged from both Geneva and Lausanne.

A new **inquiry office** with 32 microfilm-reader positions as well as 12 positions accepting customers' orders has been opened in **Geneva**, and a new **fault-clearance office** has come into operation at **Lugano**.

Two direct satellite circuits have been opened between **Zurich and Sydney** (Australia). At the same time the call charges have been reduced.

On 1st November Swiss PTT were operating **61 overseas satellite circuits**, and Radio-Suisse Ltd 8.

Telegraphs, Telex

In October the Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich primary offices were connected to the **ATECO telegram switching system**.

Telegram transmission tests with new facsimile equipment are being conducted between Berne 6 post office and Berne primary telegraph office. Messages are received on ordinary paper. The tests are later to be continued in Geneva.

On 1st October **telex service** (via Italcable) was opened between Switzerland and **Somalia**.

Via Brussels **Congo-Kinshasa** has opened **fully automatic telex service** to Switzerland.

Radio, Television

On 1st November two **fm transmitters** broadcasting German-spoken Swiss radio programmes 1 and 2 were put into operation at **Sedrun and Vals**.

The following **TV microwave sections** have been opened: **Albis-Säntis-Piz Corvatsch** (including a spare from Albis to Säntis) and **Säntis-Piz Corvatsch**. They are used for programme feeding and, between Säntis and Albis, for reporting.

On 1st November **radio telephones** were put into operation on the **Swissair feeder coach line between Berne and Zurich-Kloten airport**, as well as on the **postal coach routes of regions Chur and St. Moritz**. This communication means greatly facilitates the exchange of information between drivers and control centres.

The **1000th amateur radio transmitting licence** has been issued to Mr. H. Hartung, Zurich. His call-sign is HB9MDW.

Eleven transceivers have been seized from adolescents operating an **unlicensed radio network** in the **Chur** region.

Tests are being conducted with a 2.8-metre **Cassegrain horn antenna** for use on certain sections of the Swiss microwave system. The supporting element consists of **glass-fibre reinforced polyester**, the reflecting parts on the inside being metalized.

Miscellaneous

At a meeting in Venice the **ITU World Plan Commission** calculated the inter-continental telephone and telegram traffic for 1974 and 1978, as well as the number of radio, cable and satellite circuits required.