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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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New Colour Television Reporting Vans

W. Frei, Berne

The new colour broadcast vans replace three small black-and-white television reporting cars in use for the past ten years. The PTT has already supplied Swiss Television with seven mobile colour production units. Pictures illustrate their layout and construction.

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Short- and Medium-term Forecast for Telephone Connections

H. Zobrist, Berne

Those engaged in systematic planning are aware that for short- and medium-term planning other forecasting procedures should be used than for long-term planning. For telephone centres the optimum extension intervals are relatively short (5 years at most), and a good short- to medium-term forecast curve is therefore required. The more flexible exponential function described here has proved better suited for this task than the logistical function normally used for long-term local plant design.

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Ventilators for Cable Shafts

E. Hählen, Berne

One of several measures that had to be taken in the event of gas leaks in underground cable facilities was the procurement and utilization of ventilating equipment. Blower and heater constructions as well as first experience in their use are described.

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Aliasing Distortion in PCM Telephony

A. Kündig, Berne

In PCM telephone transmission, speech signals are low-pass filtered both before sampling and after reconstruction. Incorrect rating of these filters results in aliasing distortion. By means of subjective tests the filter characteristics have been adjusted to optimize the quality of transmission. The resulting filters differ significantly from the theoretically optimum low pass filter and can be built with fewer elements than those used in the present-day short-haul PCM systems.

News Items

Posts

Bern Postal Region is experimenting with a system which, at a later stage, will enable all **stationery requirements for the exchange of mail** between Switzerland's 4000 post offices to be handled by computer.

PTT messenger service (collection from, and delivery to, any local address of documents, packets, flowers, etc) was tentatively reintroduced in Zurich on 2 August following improvements in the staffing situation. The messengers' motor vehicles are equipped with radio telephones for greater efficiency.

Franking-label vending machines were tentatively installed at Bern, Grindelwald, Zurich and Geneva on 9 August. By inserting the appropriate number of 5c to 5fr coins the customer can obtain labels for any amount of postage up to 99.95 fr.

Telephone

In March and April Switzerland's subscribers used **ISD facilities** on **93.1 pc** of their international calls (46.6 out of 50.3 million chargeable minutes).

In the first half of this year, **telephone main stations** rose by 28,785 to 2,490,794, and **sets** increased by 47,395 to 3,960,366. The 1975 growth figures had been 40,388 and 71,163 respectively. The waiting list in Switzerland dropped by 2361 to 7946.

Twenty exchanges serving a total of 24,267 lines were equipped for **international subscriber dialling** between January and June.

Switzerland has acquired the indefeasible right of user of 200 circuits in the **«TAT 6» cable** between France and the USA, which came into operation on 29 July.

During the **1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal**, 9 temporary circuits (7 to Switzerland and 2 to the USSR) were in operation via Leuk earth station.

Installation of the 2nd computer system at the **Lucerne TERCO centre** was completed in July.

Telegraph, Telex

Between January and June the **ATECO system** handled 1,615,989 telegrams – 11 pc less than in the same period of last year.

Net growth in the number of **telex subscribers** up to the end of June was 831 (898 in 1975).

Two Berne – Cairo bothway telex circuits came into operation on 1 July as an alternative route for peak hour traffic to Egypt.

Automatic telex service to the Faeroe Islands has been available since 1 July.

Leased circuits went up by 108 (94 in 1975) to 1711 between January and June. Teleprinter channels accounted for 50.3pc, and voice circuits for 49.7 pc. **Modems** for data transmission increased to 4820; 53.2 pc were used on leased lines and 46.8 pc in the public switched network.

Radio, Television

Radio broadcast receiving licences rose by 16,214 to 2,091,788, and **television licences** increased by 31,495 to 1,790,611 up to the end of June. Growth over the 1st 6 months of 1975 had been 24,496 and 32,015 respectively. The number of **wire broadcast listeners** dropped by 949 (–55 in 1975) to 418,612.

Four **television translators** serving parts of southern Switzerland came into operation in July.

Miscellaneous

At their annual meeting in **Washington** from 7–13 July, 134 representatives from 74 of the **95 Intelsat member countries** discussed the development of traffic up to 1980 in the worldwide Intelsat communication network.

Geneva's automatic postal tube system has been extended by a 5000 m twin-tube line linking the International Conference Centre with Cointrin Airport and serving a number of other buildings as well. It is the longest line ever built without relay stations.