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Summaries

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Effects of Impedance Irregularities of Coaxial Cables on Data Transmission

A. Käser, Berne

Impedance irregularities in coaxial pairs used for data transmission give rise, on account of multiple reflections, to a noise-like voltage superimposed on the useful signal. Numerical methods of evaluating the effects of impedance irregularities, assembled mainly from previous studies, have been applied to different types of cable in function of chosen parameters. A graphical presentation of the results – which has been specially developed – allows a very simple and rapid estimation of the importance of the disturbances.

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Stray-current Interference from DC-operated Railways

S. Häusermann, Berne

DC-operated railways produce stray currents capable of causing corrosion damage to buried metal plant. It is shown how stray currents can be reduced by appropriate measures in the railway system and what precautions are necessary to avoid corrosion damage to exposed plant.

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Settling Problems with Refilled Cable Trenches

H. Hochstrasser, Winterthur

Incorrect refilling of cable trenches leads to unwanted deformation and settlement, as well as ruts and cracks in the road surface. The plate pressure test is a suitable means to determine the M_E value, which is a measure of settling tendency of materials.

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Training of Swiss Telecommunication Staff

E. Kurz, Berne

Swiss PTT Telecommunications attaches great importance to basic, special-

ized and follow-up training at all levels. High standards and effective deployment of the work force have contributed to the present productivity figure of 1000 telephones per 4.25 personnel. Staff grades, distribution, duties and training are outlined. Details are given of the training facilities and material available to technicians.

News Items

Telephone

Telephone service between Switzerland and Kuwait is now available over a direct link using the SPADE facilities at Leuk satellite earth station.

International subscriber dialling has been extended to **Altdorf** (Canton Uri) and is now available throughout 31 of the country's 51 network groups.

An initial **35,000 telephones** connected to **Zurich** local exchanges Aussersihl, Enge and Füssli have been changed over to new, **seven-digit numbers**.

Telegraph, Telex

Telex service to the Republic of Maldives was opened via Zurich manual office on 17 May.

Receiving terminals connected to **private teleprinter and data broadcast networks** last year increased by 12 pc to 1760 (1098 teleprinters, 633 data sets, and 29 VDUs).

At this year's (the 61st) **Swiss Industries Fair in Basle** the PTT, besides serving customers at two temporary post and public call offices as well as the mobile post and telegraph offices, opened a large display and sales stand and gave special demonstrations of its telegram service.

Radio, Television

In May the PTT's **microwave network** supplying television programmes from neighbouring countries to **CATV systems** was extended by four links: Rigi/Scheidegg-Stanserhorn, Stanserhorn-Küssnacht, Albis-Luzern, and Mt Pèlerin-Aigle.

Miscellaneous

In the first quarter of 1977 the PTT placed 5208 **orders for telecommunication equipment** worth 148,528,840 francs.

For the some 400 journalists covering the **meeting between presidents Carter (USA) and Assad (Syria)** in Geneva on 9 May, two large **communication centres** were provided at Cointrin airport and the Hotel Intercontinental.

The **Executive Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU)** met in Bern from 12–18 May. Among the major items on the agenda were the improvement and streamlining of several national and international postal services, technical cooperation with the developing countries, and relations with UNO and other international organizations.

The **Administrative Council of the International Telecommunication Union** met in Geneva from 23 May to 10 June to discuss, among other items, staffing problems, the ITU budget and the report on the Union's activities in 1976. In addition, it fixed the dates for the international conferences on radio communications (1979) and air radio (1978).