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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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The new complex of the Zurich TV Studio for topical events

P. Bühler, Berne, and B. Zimmermann, Zurich

The TV studio DRS (for German and Rhaeto-Romanic speaking regions) of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation has recently taken into operation a new technical equipment for its programmes 'DRS aktuell' as well as 'Tagesschau'. The present article illustrates in detail this equipment as well as its operational capability. The main emphasis lies clearly in the equipment complex for the 'Tagesschau' as well as in the modern computer-aided operation of programmes. The PTT invested around 8.5 million Swiss francs in technical equipment for this new information centre.

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Mechanical processing of postal letters

R. Beyeler and M. Schenk, Bern

The authors describe an important preparatory working step which letters must pass before mechanical processing. The consignments must be separated from unsuitable mail, have to be uniformly arranged and stamped. Then only they can be coded and sorted by the machine. This step is designated as mail preparation. The article states the various possibilities of solving this task. It presents the processes selected at the postal offices of Geneva 2, Lausanne 1, Berne 1 and Basel 2.

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Technical training with the help of video equipment

M. Genilloud, Berne

After providing a survey on the tasks and requirements for technical training, the author describes the special characteristics of the video assisted teaching and course materials and the criteria of their use for the training and continuing education of the PTT's personnel. He also treats the production equipment and the cassette copying machine as well as the material provided to the regional telecommunications directorates.

News Items

Telephone

In October 1985, a record turnover was noticed at the **telephone set distribution centre in Zurich**. The centre dealt with 2258 replacements, 368 second sets, 675 repairs and 474 breakdowns. At the **customer service of the Berne regional telecommunication directorate**, 7102 telephone sets were transacted during the first ten months. This was an increase of 86 p.c. compared to last year.

For the first time, a 1830 m long **glass fibre cable** was put into the tube of a **burnt-out old trunk cable** between **Murten and Payerne**.

Four additional permanent **satellite links via Leuk** earth station were established: Ecuador (1), India (2) and the USA (1).

Teleinformatics

So far alkaline-manganese button cells were used for **music telegrams** conveying good wishes. Investigation proved that it contains 4 mg of mercury which is dangerous to the environment. Therefore, lithium cells will be employed in future.

During October 1985 Radio Suisse Ltd transferred to the PTT the **telex traffic** of the following countries: Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bermuda, Montserrat, Christopher, Turks and Caicos, as well as Virgin Islands.

Bureaufax service has been opened to **Egypt** since 5 November 1985. Thus, 57 countries are connected to Switzerland for this service.

Since 1 January 1986, a **low tariff** has been introduced in the **Telepac domestic data communications service**. It offers a reduction of 40 p.c. per volume unit. This will apply from Monday to Friday between 18 and 8 o'clock as well as on Saturdays and Sundays.

Radio, Television

91 p.c. of Swiss population have access to the reception of the **VHF/FM stereophonic programme** in their own regional languages due to reequipment of 75 transmitters.

The **Sottens medium wave transmitter** will be also **operating at night** for four months on trial basis.

Since mid-November 1985 a **4th VHF simplex relay** has been offering radiophone service at the **Hörnli multipurpose station**.

10 000 subscribers were connected to a **common radio paging exchange** for Eurosignal, local paging B and car paging. This caused a new numbering plan for all car paging directory numbers.

Miscellaneous

The PTT employed about 80 mobile radiorelay links during the meeting of **Reagan-Gorbatshow** for sound and video connections of the different TV broadcasters. The journalists had access to 52 telephones served by operators, 19 telex and 14 telefax booths, of which some were open around the clock.

The **trial operation with Notico** (processing of civil engineering standard data for administration of construction work with computer) was successfully completed at the Berne and at the St Gall regional telecommunication directorates.