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## The New Trunk Service System

by J. Frey, Basle and P. Grünschow, Berne

Summary. The steadily increasing number of telephone users in the Basle region calls for an extension not only of the local exchanges, but also of the trunk service plant. In this article the reasons are given for building a second trunk service centre in Basle. The author outlines the structure of both the local network and the numbering-plan area, and describes the traffic relations between conventional plant and the new exchanges, which incorporate high-speed precious-metal contact relays. Finally, the high-speed precious-metal contact system, its principal characteristics, the establishment of a connection, processor control, as well as test and measuring facilities are dealt with.

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## Power, Lighting and Low-Current Facilities

by W. Itschner, Basle

Summary. At the initial stage, two 600 kVA transformers, supplemented by two 700 kVA diesel-electric emergency units, will supply the power for the 'Wallstrasse' telecommunication building. A detailed description is given of the lighting facilities in the basement exchange rooms, and the arrangement of ducts for electricity and telephone circuits on the upper floors.

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## Cabling of the Telecommunication Plant

by J. Frey, Basle

Summary. The cabling within a telecommunication building is usually decided on at the design stage. As often from the moment of planning several years pass before the plant is installed, technical development or other circumstances may lead to costly alterations in the structure of the building. In the Basle-Wallstrasse telecommunication centre a new technique has therefore been introduced, which facilitates subsequent changes in the cabling and arrangement of plant.

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## The New Repeater Station

by R. Keller, Basle

Summary. This article contains basic considerations on the planning and building of the new repeater station, and outlines its special characteristics. The principal functions are not described here, as it is assumed that the reader has a certain knowledge of carrier telephony and repeater equipment.

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## Design and Erection of the 'Wallstrasse' Telecommunication Building

by H. Koelliker, Zurich

Summary. The author describes the hard road to the completion of a large telecommunication building. He outlines a few points to be observed in building to the best advantage.

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## The Design of the Work-Rooms

by W. Schäublin, Basle

Summary. The layout of the 'Wallstrasse' telecommunication building made it necessary to arrange some of the work-rooms in the windowless basements. This article shows by what means it has nevertheless been possible to create attractive rooms meeting the latest psychological, technical and hygienic requirements and affording maximum safety.

## News Items

### Posts

**Field trials with 30-cubic-metre (39-cubic-yard) mail containers** for road transport were conducted between Lausanne and Yverdon up to the beginning of May, and will be resumed in the Zurich region this summer.

An examination of the **economic aspects of parcel transport by road and by rail** has shown that the **30-cubic-metre containers** are an economically and operationally suitable means of middle-distance road transport.

In 1970, the **average distances covered by the users of postal coaches** were as follows: individual travel 8.5 km, season-ticket travel 7.7 km, group travel 36.2 km. The total average, which increased slightly (1.5%) on 1969, was 9.568 km.

### Telephone

The Thun telephone office has been equipped with 6 **microfilm readers**.

The **Burgdorf inquiry position has been closed**, and the service is now operated from Berne.

**International subscriber dialling** is now available to 900,000 customers in 155 exchange areas.

**Lincompex terminals** have been connected to the **Berne-Cairo short-wave radio-telephone link**.

As from 1st January 1971, the Swiss PTT have rented all the **lines used for their transit calls via Germany**. Thanks to a CEPT recommendation it will be possible to rent transit lines to other countries in the near future.

Direct cable links between Zurich and Beirut have made it possible to **reduce the charges for calls to the Lebanon**.

## Telegraphs, Telex

For the **introduction of fully automatic telex service with Australia and Hong Kong**, via transit dialling-facilities in Canada, 4 additional lines have been connected between Zurich and Montreal.

At the end of April, Radio-Suisse Ltd. opened a **direct satellite telex link between Berne and Lima**.

The direct **radio-telex links opened with Bombay, Colombo and Khartoum** during the British postal strike will be permanently maintained.

## Radio, Television

In May, the second and third Swiss television chains were extended each by 3 **transmitters and frequency transposers** located in the cantons of Berne (5) and Lucerne (1).

The Swiss national **microwave TV link Piz Corvatsch-Celerina-Zerne-Ofenpass** has been equipped with **intermediate-frequency protection devices**.

## Miscellaneous

Sixteen units of a **new type of mechanical switching centre for pneumatic tube systems** have been built by the PTT telecommunication workshop. This installation takes up less height in buildings than former plant.

At the end of April, 934 **rented telegraph lines** and data communication circuits (122) were in operation in Switzerland. This number included 195 lines (data 27) to European and 100 (10) to overseas countries.

From 21 to 27 May, the **7th International Television Symposium** and an **exhibition on television engineering** were held at Montreux. One of the opening addresses was delivered by Federal Councillor R. Bonvin.

In order to prepare for the UIT World Administrative Radio Conference, the **CEPT Working Group for Radio Communications** met in Berne from 27 April to 4 May.

In May 1971, after two years' negotiations, agreement has been reached on a **new INTELSAT statute**. This statute restricts the dominant position of the USA and introduces structural changes by providing for a Governors' Council, a General Directorate, and a biennial General Meeting of the member countries.