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Summaries and Notices

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Economic Aspects of PCM-Systems and their use in the Swiss Line Network

by M. Gfeller, Berne

In planning the lines network, it is of great importance to consider the extent to which PCM systems can be used economically. In the toll area the possibilities of using these systems depend on the length and number of lines, and they vary according to whether fully occupied existing cables or new installations are employed. In the ten-year plan covering the period up to 1980, 8 PCM systems a year are provided for, accounting for a total of 120,000 km of lines or 15% of the toll network. The reasons why in the trunk network PCM systems will be the exception rather than the rule are given. For an integrated PCM network interlinking all network groups of Switzerland a new cable network will probably have to be set up.

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The Applications of Cybernetics to the PTT-Services

by J. Wettstein, Berne

Following the chapters 'Introduction', 'Contents', and 'Special features', the applications of cybernetics to the PTT services are described. Cybernetics is defined as being the science of communication and control. The importance of this new management tool can be said to increase with the scope of the tasks to be treated. For the PTT Enterprise with its far-reaching economic implications, cybernetics will no doubt render most valuable services in the solution of a great number of problems.

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Network Planning Technique at the Regional Telephone Directorate

by W. Muster, Basle

New opportunities for applying the network planning technique to industry and the administration arise daily. The network method makes a valuable contribution to more efficient planning and has proved to be an excellent aid in combating the shortage of qualified executive personnel. Two examples picked from the wealth of possibilities illustrate how network planning methods can be used to advantage at the Regional Telephone Directorate. Planners with both engineering and commercial interests may find the information contained in this article worth-while.

News items

Posts

In mid-June an **experiment** with a big customer using **pay-in slips for processing by optical reader** was initiated, in connection with the proposed conversion of the entire postal giro service to automatic working.

The number of passengers of the **Europa-bus tours** referred to as "Swiss Alpine Tour" and "Swiss Lakes and Mountains Tour" (10 and 4 trips respectively were undertaken from mid-April to mid-June) rose by 12 and 55% respectively as compared with the same period of last year. A total of 336 passengers took part in those tours.

Telephone

Some 92,000 new exchange connections were made available in 14 new and 49 extended telephone exchanges during the first half of 1971.

At the end of June, the first **automatic morning call equipment** with a capacity of 5,600 bookings was placed in service in **Zurich**, where 7,000 subscribers make use of the morning call service daily. Throughout Switzerland, 35,000 to 40,000 subscribers are woken by telephone each day. In the next few years some additional cities will receive automatic morning call equipment enabling subscribers to book their morning calls without the assistance of an operator.

In the telephone centre of Basel-Wallstrasse the **first processor-controlled national ESK trunk exchange** was put into operation on 4 June.

On 1st July, **international subscriber dialling was extended to Canada**, 10 centimes being charged for 0.625 seconds of conversation (as in calls to the United States). To handle the anticipated traffic increase, two additional satellite circuits have been placed in service.

A **third satellite circuit** taking care of **Rio de Janeiro** traffic was set up at the beginning of June.

As of 1st July, the number of **satellite circuits used by the Swiss PTT and Radio-Suisse Ltd.** was 57, 41 being reserved for service with the United States, 9 with Canada, 3 with Brazil, 2 with Japan and 1 each with Argentina and Iran. Of these circuits 22 pass through the earth station of Raisting, 18 through Pleumeur-Bodou, 16 through Fucino and 1 through Buitrago.

By the end of June, **international subscriber dialling** had been established in **165 exchanges serving 950 subscribers**. Since the beginning of this year 54 exchanges giving service to 171,000 subscribers have been converted to international subscriber dialling.

Telegraph, telex

Owing to a strike in the **Western Union Telegraph Company**, the only company handling intra-American traffic, telegrams were accepted at the sender's risk only, and part of them suffered considerable delay.

After three years of preparatory work, Switzerland has been connected to the **international hotel reservation system**, whose central computer is located in Virginia, USA. Terminal equipment in Switzerland is available in Zurich, Berne and Lausanne.

Radio, television

The **VHF transposers of Stein, canton St. Gall, and Moutier, canton Berne**, have been replaced by more advanced and efficient systems.

The aerial diagram of the **television transposer of Buchserberg, canton St. Gall**, has been modified so as to provide **better television coverage of the Principality of Liechtenstein** for the Swiss programmes.

Miscellaneous

In Geneva, the **International Radio Administrative Conference for Space Communications** met from 7 June to 17 July. Some 120 of the 140 UIT member countries were represented. The conference was concerned with the revision of the International Radio Regulations, with a view to the future use of space communications for fixed and mobile radio services.

In Geneva, the first **World Telecommunication Exhibition, TELECOM 71**, was held from 17 to 27 June. Some 250 telecommunication administrations, firms and companies from nearly all western countries as well as from Japan and the German Democratic Republic took part in this exhibition, which was sponsored by UIT. The exhibition, in which Switzerland was also represented, gave visitors a good idea of the latest achievements in electrical communications.