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News Items

Posts

In mid-August a delegation led by **Mr. F. Bourquin, head of the Swiss PTT Department of Posts**, left for the **People's Republic of China**, where bilateral postal problems concerning mainly the airmail service will be discussed. China is not a member of the Universal Postal Union.

In commemoration of the **opening of postal coach routes over the Grimsel and Furka passes 50 years ago**, an official tour was arranged at the end of June.

On 1st November the **feeder airline from Berne to Zurich-Kloten airport** will be discontinued and replaced by a **direct postal coach service**.

Telephone

On 1st July the **Zurich fault clearance service** was connected to the **ATECO computer system**. So far the numbers and addresses of 315,000 subscribers in the Zurich telephone area have been fed into the system; the remaining data will be read in by the end of this year. Even at the present stage the computers greatly facilitate the handling of fault reports.

In July, **automatic frontier service** was opened between the following Swiss and Italian telephone areas: St. Moritz and Chiavenna, Sondrio and Meran, Brig and Domodossola.

In July **an additional 7 satellite circuits** were opened with the USA (5) and Canada (2) via the Raisting and Fucino earth stations.

Switzerland now uses 57 satellite circuits for telephony (40 with the USA and 9 with Canada).

The **Arab Republic of Yemen** is the 191st country with which Switzerland has opened **telephone service**.

In March and April **no less than 59.3% of the international calls from Switzerland were dialled by subscribers**. In some telephone areas, the percentage was even higher, e.g. Davos (94), Locarno (85), Basle (80), Geneva and Lugano (77 each), Zug (74), St. Moritz, Lucerne and Winterthur (73 each), Berne (67) and Zurich (64).

In July, **International Subscriber Dialling** was made available to 96,000 customers in 20 exchange areas (among them Lausanne). More than 1 million or **over 50% of the Swiss telephone users** now have access to this facility.

Semi-automatic telephone service has been opened with **Venezuela**.

In the first half of this year **subscriber's main stations** rose by 48,994 to **1,994,162**, and **telephone sets** by 85,292 to **3,111,071**.

Telegraphs, Telex

During its first phase of operation up to the end of June, the **ATECO message switching centre** handled telegrams by telex subscribers. In the second phase, which began on 6 July, Radio-Suisse Ltd are gradually transmitting their incoming traffic into the system.

Three incoming **telex circuits Tokyo-Zurich** have been equipped for **automatic transit dialling**.

At the end of June, **13,713 telex connections**, i.e. 1,040 more than at the beginning of 1971, were in operation in Switzerland. The 229 subscriber's stations installed in June alone correspond to the total for the year 1956.

Radio, Television

In the first half of 1971, the Swiss Telecommunication Regions had to deal with **1,537 cases of unlicensed radio (1,151) and TV (386) reception**.

At the end of June the number of **receiving licences** in Switzerland amounted to **1,873,694 for radio**, and **1,353,393 for television**. **Colour TV sets** reached **103,345**.

Miscellaneous

At the end of June, **967 rented telecommunication lines** (June 1970: 833) were in operation in Switzerland. Of these, **141 (82)** were used for **data transmission**. Inland lines numbered 661 (data 101), circuits to European countries 204 (29) and overseas lines 102 (11).

An important result of the **International Radio Administrative Conference for Space Communications**, which ended in Geneva on 17 July, is the allocation of the frequency spectrum up to 275 GHz (previously 40 GHz). In this way, new satellite communication facilities have been opened, in particular for broadcasting, radio astronomy, as well as fixed and mobile radio services.

Korrigenda

In der Nummer 8/1971 hat uns der berüchtigte Druckfehler-teufel arg mitgespielt, und zwar so perfid, dass ihm selbst die Nachkontrolle vor dem Gut zum Druck nicht auf die Schliche kam! Sowohl im Artikel über «Die Netzplantechnik in den Kreis-telephondirektionen» als auch dem Beitrag über «Anwendungsmöglichkeiten der Kybernetik bei den PTT-Betrieben» sind bedauerlicherweise Klischeevertauschungen vorgekommen, die wir nachstehend richtigstellen:

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Seite 495	2	Fig. 3
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Wir danken jenen aufmerksamen Lesern der TM, die uns auf diese Fehler aufmerksam gemacht haben, und bitten um Entschuldigung für das Versehen.

Die Redaktion