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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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Radio broadcasting over medium and long wave (part I)

W. Ebert, Berne

The author briefly comments on the characteristics and use of the various wavebands for radio broadcasting. He outlines the present state of European medium-wave broadcasting and examines the technical and operational requirements for reorganization of the medium and long-wave bands.

p. 107...112

Guide for authors of instructional material

W. Hürlimann, Berne

First, the need for intracompany teaching material and the make-up of such material are discussed. The didactic presentation of the texts and their methodology are explained with the aid of checklists and examples. In the last paragraph the indispensable co-operation between authors and their clients is stressed and some practical suggestions are made.

p. 146...148

Laying of hard polyethylene cable protection tubes in the bed of Lake Lucerne

P. JOHN, Lucerne

First, the reasons for crossing the lake in the above fashion are given and the overall project as well as its detailed design explained. Then, the choice of this particular mode of tube laying, and the tube burying technique used are discussed. In conclusion, information is given on the tubes employed, their manufacture, and the safety measures required.

p. 113...118

40 years of telex service in Switzerland

P. Wuchner, Berne

After a brief historical survey, the more recent development of the telex service in Switzerland is shown, the steep increase

in the number of subscribers and in traffic volume as well as the high degree of automation in the international service being brought into prominence. Then, the reasons responsible for the fast growth of the medium, especially over the past few years, are examined and a forecast of its future development is made.

News Items

Postal service

In 1973, the motor coach excursions organized by the Passenger Service of the Swiss PTT yielded 1.58 million francs in revenue, the highest yearly result so far (12% more than in 1972).

Telephone service

26 mobile automatic telephone exchanges having a total capacity of 25,800 subscribers' main stations are in use in the Swiss PTT at present.

With a view to achieving greater standardization of **large-size telephone equipment (line concentrators, operators' and supervisors' stations, etc.)**, the PTT are examining proposals submitted to this effect by telecommunication equipment firms.

Monitoring devices indefinitely repeating subscriber numbers when in busy condition are not admitted in the Swiss public telephone system.

Of the total of 236.56 million chargeable call minutes in the **international service** in 1973 197.62 million or **83.5%** are accounted for by **subscriber dialled calls**, a 7.1% increase over the preceding year.

In the first quarter of 1974, **20,227 subscribers' main stations were converted to International Subscriber Dialling**.

The **automatic motorcar paging system ALF 7301 has been admitted in the public telecommunication network**. Used jointly with a call answering device, it automatically selects the dialled motorcar call number after the recorder has registered a call.

Telephone calls to Argentina have been routed via the new **Swiss satellite earth station** since 18 March this year. **Brazil**—the fifth country accessible via the earth station—now has direct connection through **4 satellite circuits (since beginning of April)**.

Telegraph and telex services

For the **16th Curling World Championships** carried through in Berne at the end of March, the PTT installed a **transmission centre** consisting of the telex van, 8 telephone call boxes 1 telecopier (Rank Xerox) and a switchboard.

In mid-March a **new telephone and telegraph office** with three coin-operated stations, 12 attended telephone cabins and one telex cabin was opened in **Zug**.

Radio and television services

In 1973, **564,939 radios and 204,265 TV sets were sold** by the trade. These sales figures exceed the total number of new licenses by 515,874 and 112,743 respectively.

At the end of March, **13 television transmitters were placed in service at 11 locations**.

Miscellaneous

With an increase of only 2.9%, the **PTT traffic index reflects a slowdown in growth in 1973 again**. While telecommunication traffic increased by 6.1%, the overall postal traffic fell by 1.5%.

At its Geneva meeting last March, the **study commission of CCIR** discussed questions regarding the optimum utilization of the radio frequency spectrum for land mobile services, paging systems, maritime radio, the time-signal service and micro-wave links.

In 1973, 109 **model remote-control transmitters** were sent in for type and individual acceptance testing, of which 72 were approved for licensing.