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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

p. 244...251

The PTT Printing and Reprography Office

P. Prisi, Berne

The article outlines the history, development, organization and duties of this office, which at present employs a staff of 44. A brief description of the various reproduction processes and their application is given, followed by a general outlook on the future of the printing industry.

p. 252...257

Probability and Average Waiting Time of Multi-Stage Switching Networks with Unlimited Access

L. Praz, Berne

The author examines a switching network with one or several stages which rejects no calls. Connections that cannot be immediately switched through are held until a free line is available. The queues accumulated in this way are proportional to the number of first-stage multiples. The traffic considered here is stationary. The probability of calls coming in or being released is constant.

p. 258...260

Cathodic Protection of Underground Storage Tanks of PTT Buildings

F. Hegi, Berne

The author briefly explains the causes of corrosion of metal objects in the ground. He then deals with the purpose and principle of cathodic protection, giving details of its practical application by the PTT and outlining measurements and tests of the protective treatment used.

News Items

Posts

On 22 May the **17th Universal Postal Union Congress**, which is being held in Lausanne until 6 July, was opened by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr Brugger. Dr. M. Redli, President of Swiss PTT, was elected Chairman of the Congress.

At the '**Swisspack 74**' exhibition, held in Basle from 14 to 18 May, Swiss Posts informed the packing industry of a new **quality mark** to be awarded to manufacturers and users of **packing materials meeting PTT specifications** regarding stability and ease of handling.

Telephone

Cost studies have shown that a **jumbo-type coaxial cable featuring 12 3.7/13.5 mm tubes** is less economical than a standard 60 MHz cable enlarged to 12 2.6/9.5 mm tubes.

The steady increase in line capacity in the Swiss national telephone system enabled **two-way operation of circuits to be discontinued** at the end of 1973.

In May an additional 2 **mobile exchanges** came into operation in the Zurich region. Swiss PTT now operates 26 such units serving 1,000 customers each.

With new **automatic morning and alarm call systems** opened at **Neuchatel, Sion, Thun and Berne** in May and June, a total 16 installations capable of handling 36,000 orders are now in operation.

Following Geneva, network groups **Neuchatel and La Chaux-de-Fonds** were equipped with the new **3-digit service, information and emergency call numbers** in June.

Of a total of 41.9 million **international call minutes from Switzerland** in January and February, 35.9 million or **85.7%** were

dialled direct by the subscribers. This is an increase in ISD use of 3.7% over the same period of last year.

Telegraph, Telex

During the 'Tour de Romandie' cycling event, the **mobile telegraph office** was opened successively at all 6 sectional stops to enable journalists to hand in their press telegrams, or telephone and telex reports direct to their respective papers.

Radio, Television

Two new **sound production centers** (multi-purpose studio and drama studio) have been provided for the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation at **Zurich**.

An additional airline, **Transvalair of Sion**, has joined the Swiss PTT **Shortwave Radiophone Service with Aircraft** enabling operational messages to be exchanged between pilot and home airport.

Miscellaneous

In May the **TAT 6 Administrative Committee held its third meeting** at Spoleto (Italy) to discuss the laying of this new transatlantic cable, the allocation and routing of circuits, as well as technical, financial and administrative matters. TAT 6 is to come into operation by mid-1976.

EBU Study-Group A (AM Sound Broadcasting) met in Dubrovnik at the beginning of May to settle a number of planning principles that are to form the basic document for the coming Medium/Long-Wave Conference.

This year's Spring sale of **used telecommunication material** from PTT stores yielded a record sum of 3.5 million Swiss francs.

By the end of April, **radiopaging customers** in Switzerland exceeded 6,000.