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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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Experimental Terminal for Simultaneous Transmission of Speech and Still Pictures over 64 kbit/s PCM Channels

A. Kündig, Berne

The aim of this development work was not yet to produce a new terminal, but to study the various types of application of fast digital channels from a user's point of view, and to gain technical knowledge in the field of new terminal apparatus.

p. 423...427

Planning and Installation of the Berne-Zurich Section of Switzerland's long-distance PCM Network

R. Kohler, Berne

The planning data and criteria are outlined and a short review of the installation is given. Some aspects of the equipment and installation work are also mentioned. In conclusion, tests and s/n ratio measurements in particular, are discussed.

p. 428...430

Line Error-rate and Jitter Measurements in 2 Mbit/s Digital Transmission Systems

A. Käser, Berne

A series of measurements of line error-rate and, above all, jitter have been made on several 2 Mbit/s links forming part of the Swiss digital transmission network. By connecting 800 repeaters in series, it has been possible to simulate digital transmission over a distance of more than 2500 km.

News Items

Telephone

Swiss PTT put into operation its **2.5 millionth telephone** at the end of August. The one-million mark had been reached in 1959 — 79 years after the introduction of the telephone into Switzerland — and the two millionth subscriber was connected in 1972.

The **Europe-Japan Pool** circuits have been increased by direct satellite channels between Athens and Tokyo as well as Osaka and Zurich. Additional Pool circuits have also come into operation via Raisting (2) and Plemeur-Bodou (3).

Telephone service between **Switzerland** and **Saudi Arabia**, which was changed over from radio to SPADE in July, will shortly be available over two direct satellite circuits, Zurich-Jidda and Zurich-Riyadh.

In the third quarter of 1976, **additional circuits or new groups** were opened from Basle, Berne, Geneva, Lugano and Zurich to Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Paris, Dijon, Athens, Lisbon, Bologna, Pisa, Berlin (GDR), and Zagreb.

In May and June Switzerland's subscribers used **ISD facilities** on **93.6 pc** of their international calls (46.81 out of 49.98 million chargeable minutes).

Telegraph, Telex

Automatic telex service has been opened to **Egypt** (four-digit numbers only).

A **data communication microwave circuit** came into operation between **Berne** and **Lausanne** on 1 September.

Radio, Television

In September the **Swiss television network** was enlarged by **13 translators** in the Grisons (6), Berne (2), Fribourg (4), and Valais (1).

Between Mont Pelerin and Ravoire the first section of a **CATV microwave supply network** relaying programmes France 1-3 has been experimentally opened.

An agreement providing for the establishment of an **international maritime satellite system (INMARSAT)** has been signed in London by 47 countries, including the Eastern Bloc states.

A **publicity drive to win new wire broadcast and vhf listeners** was launched at FERA '76, the Swiss radio and television exhibition, which opened at Zurich on 1 September.

The Swiss are able, at last, to see the «true colours» of their MPs. After years of drab monochrome, politics as relayed from the **Federal Parliament's television studio** now come over in glowing PAL, thanks to a decision to go coloured before the new studio, now under construction, is completed in 1979.