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Summaries

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Attenuation on Radio-Relay Links with Special Regard to Multipath Propagation

M. Liniger, Berne

The author examines the propagation conditions for the high frequencies used in today's radio-relay systems. After a short introduction, he deals with the effects of precipitation and the occurrence of fading, its mean duration and distribution in time with multipath propagation. The second part, also based on statistically recorded fading conditions, is devoted to the various possibilities of diversity reception.

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Some Surge Protection Problems from Practice

E. Montandon, Berne

Digital equipment being susceptible to both disturbance and damage, the need for electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) is now increasingly recognized. Yet, in a wider sense, this problem is as old as electricity itself. The ratio of resistibility to disturbance determines whether or not an electrical system is viable. In simple terms, voltage surges act as agents of disease in electrical systems. This article deals with the origins of overvoltages and points out protective measures.

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Power Plant at the Zurich-Herdern Telecommunications Centre

J. Meier, Berne

The power supply system of telecommunications centres is outlined. Power plant is dimensioned on the basis of expected equipment needs. Operational requirements determine the necessary safety, the public mains serving as the primary power source. In the event of mains failure, stand-by power supplies such as diesel engine-generator units, lead-acid batteries, etc., take over. The design features of ac and dc power plant are described and illustrated by means of diagrams.

Telephone

A new, faster **telephone application and connection procedure**, introduced in the regions in 1977, has had the expected effect of cutting down from 10 to 4 days in over 80 pc of cases the time required for the connection or transfer of stations.

Under the '**Gift Token for Phone Calls**' scheme, launched in November last year, 11,602 inpayments totalling 501,025 francs were made up to the end of February 1978.

All of Switzerland's enquiry offices, with the exception of Olten, will be linked to **dq computer system TERCO** by mid-May.

Local telephone numbers giving **information on snow and skiing conditions** are listed under a new, standard entry, 'Schnee- und Pistenbericht', which first appeared in the Berne directory last year and is now also included in the central Switzerland volumes.

Switzerland's **outgoing international calls** last year totalled 331.76 million chargeable minutes, of which 316.25 million (95.3 pc) **were subscriber dialled**.

International circuits from and to Switzerland rose by 1072 to 10,498 last year. Of these, 9970 were European and 528 overseas circuits. IDD was available over 10,197 lines.

The **Berne-Lagos hf radio link** has been replaced by a satellite circuit. Berne-Montevideo is the only remaining radio link.

Leuk satellite earth station opened **permanent circuits to Kuwait**, its 13th direct link, on 28 February. Up to that date, service had been available via SPADE (Leuk) and Raisting earth station.

The existing four satellite circuits between **Zurich and Abidjan** (Ivory Coast) have been transferred from Pleumeur-Bodou to **Leuk earth station**.

Subscriber dialling to Iraq became available on 1 April.

Telegraph, Telex

IXSD to the Azores became available on 1 March.

Telex calls connected by **Berne manual office** (Radio-Suisse) can now be booked by dialling a single number, 391.

Radio, Television

In March the **Swiss television network** was enlarged by 6 translators relaying the German (2), French (1) and Italian-language (3) national programmes.

The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation is considering the introduction of a **multilingual national programme** to be broadcast over the country's **mediumwave transmitters** during the evening and night hours from 23 November 1978. It has been decided, however, to make implementation of the plan conditional upon an increase in radio licence charges. If this cannot be secured, the existing regional services will be continued.

Miscellaneous

Of the **suggestions entered by PTT staff** last year, 144 (21 pc) were adopted. They will result in annual net savings of 203,000 francs. Awards totalled 26,500 francs.