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Summaries

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The BB 9600 Baseband Modem

J. Werndli, Berne

The digital coding procedure used for baseband data transmission in the PTT's subscriber network is explained. In addition, the data transmission equipment used in the local network on such connections is described.

p. 456...460

Revised Federal Low Current Regulation

P. Lüthi and B. Gnehm, Berne

A revision of the Federal Low Current Regulation of 1933 became necessary as the narrow limits set by many of the provisions no longer corresponded to the present state of technology. In addition, the requirements for personal and equipment safety had to be spelled out more clearly.

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Motor Vehicle Trials for Better Fuel Economy

K. Alder, Berne

In the framework of a 'save energy' campaign, the motor vehicle division of the PTT examined the possibility of achieving better fuel economy through improved driving habits. The test was intended to find out how much fuel can be saved by driving in the middle rpm range of the engine. The excellent individual results led to tests on a larger scale with equally positive results, thus proving the assumption that fuel can be saved this way. The rate of saving depends on the type of vehicle and driving conditions, but even more on the attitude of the driver. The side products of such a driving style are less noise and exhaust gas, and reduced vehicle wear.

News Items

Telephone

Jordan and Paraguay are the latest countries available to Switzerland's subscribers by **International Direct Dialing**.

A **SPADE link to Egypt** was opened via Leuk on 16 October. This brings to twenty the extra-European countries available over Switzerland's own earth station.

By the end of October, Switzerland was using **253 satellite circuits to 31 extra-European countries**. They are operated via Leuk (200), Fucino (1), Goonhilly (4), Pleumeur-Bodou (25), and Raisting (23). 213 circuits are routed over the Atlantic region and 40 over the Indian Ocean region satellite.

Telegraph, Telex

An experimental **public facsimile service** was opened between Switzerland and the **United States** on 1 December.

Automatic telex service to India and Pakistan became available on 27 November.

In **IXSD telex service** from Switzerland, the following **new country codes** became effective on 27 November: Republic of Korea 045801, Indonesia 04573, Iran 04188, Kuwait 041496, Sri Lanka 045803, Taiwan 045785, and Thailand 04586.

The PTT's **public message switching system, SAM**, which is to come into operation next year, has since 3 October

been undergoing tests involving the exchange of simulated traffic between regional telex and leased circuit departments.

Radio, Television

A **multipurpose station** was opened on the **Froburg near Olten** on 12 October. It serves as a microwave radio relay base for telephony and as a distribution centre for television signals supplied to CATV systems over microwave links.

For the first time in the history of Swiss Television, a **colour studio** has recently been installed on the **3454 m high Jungfrauoch** for an outside broadcast. This has meant sending up by cog railway some eight tonnes of material and equipment.

The 35th vhf simplex relay for **radio-phone service between fixed and mobile stations** has come into operation. It is located on Rigi-Scheidegg and serves part of central Switzerland.

Miscellaneous

The PTT has been discussing with the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation and local organizing committees the technical requirements for **radio and television coverage of this winter's skiing events**. The total number of lines to be provided by the PTT exceeds 200.

Work on a 44 km long **coaxial cable link** through the **St Gotthard** road tunnel started on 6 October.