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## Summaries

p. 472...478

### Transport of Telecommunication Materials by Helicopter

O. Nenninger, Berne

The Swiss PTT Telecommunication Services are using helicopters mainly for the transport of cables, open-wire and transmitter equipment to building sites in mountain regions, and for the erection of antenna masts. As the cost of air transport is quite high, each flight has to be prepared carefully. An efficient ground organization and expert handling of loads help to reduce helicopter time considerably.

p. 479...483

### Radiocommunication with Swiss Airlines

T. Liechti and H. Bosshard, Berne

Direct radiocommunication with Swiss airliners was introduced at the beginning of 1972. This new shortwave service enables flight control to communicate with aircraft anywhere at any time over the Schwarzenburg transmitting and the Châtonnaye receiving station of the PTT. Calls are set up, coordinated and monitored by the Berne Overseas Terminal. The article describes the plant provided for this service, its operation and, in particular, remote control of transmitters and aerials from Berne.

p. 484...491

### Gradual Introduction of Mechanized Materials Accounting and Resulting Changes in the Stores Services of Regional Telephone Directorates

A. Gamma, Lucerne

With a view to achieving optimum materials management and simplifying telecommunication stores handling at headquarters and regional levels, the PTT have been mechanizing their materials account over the last few years. The author outlines the various mechanization stages since 1964, describes the resulting changes in the stores services of the regional telephone directorates, and briefly touches on the IS-B information system, introduced on 1 July 1971.

p. 492...497

### Pneumatic Tube Installations in Swiss Cities

M. Hochuli, Berne

Having reviewed the history of pneumatic tube installations in Switzerland and abroad, the author explains Swiss PTT's reasons for building fully automatic city tubes. He describes some of the specially developed plant, outlining its operational advantages.

## News Items

### Postal service

The PTT board of directors has designated **Fribourg as the site of the future Swiss postal giro centre.**

To speed up the opening of the about 50,000 letters to be processed in the future giro centre daily, the Postal Engineering Division has developed a **prototype of an envelope opening machine** capable of handling 10,000 letters an hour.

With the Union of Swiss Envelope Manufacturers ideas on **envelope design** have been exchanged (private publicity on envelopes, size of scanning areas, sealing methods, minimum dimensions of letters and punched cards).

Time-, cost- and space-saving measures in the **parcel post service to the USA** were introduced on 1 September. In the Basel 17 office of exchange mail bags containing non-insured surface parcels intended for the New York routing area are now loaded into transcontainers.

The **Europabus route** Zurich-Lucerne-Interlaken-Montreux will be discontinued in 1973. The routes Munich-St. Moritz, Chur-St. Moritz-Lugano-Stresa, and Davos-Stelvio-Bozen will be operated under Swiss PTT authority in the future. Instead, the Grand Alpine Tour (7 days), the Swiss Alps and Lakes Tour (4 days) and the Swiss Highlights Tour (3 days) will now be included in the Europabus programme.

### Telephone service

In September 1972 facilities for 18,600 new subscriber's stations were provided in 6 new exchanges and 14 extended exchanges.

The General Directorate of PTT has developed a **target factor measuring device** enabling the telephone numbers dialled by the subscribers to be recorded on punched tape; this tape is then processed in the Electronic Computer Centre and provides valuable information for the planning services.

At the Basel Regional Telephone Directorate a **foreign-language laboratory with 14 positions** was placed in service on 4 September.

**International subscriber dialling** has been made available to about 21,700 more subscribers served by 15 exchanges (Brisago, Cully, Einsiedeln, Kilchberg, Rheineck, Wald, etc.).

Between **Lugano and Como 6 additional circuits** (2 outgoing, 4 incoming) have been provided, so that a total of 16 circuits are now available in both directions.

9 additional satellite circuits had to be provided via Frankfurt/Main to meet the re-

quirements of the **Europe-USA pool**. These circuits have been allocated to Switzerland by reason of its traffic volume.

**Between Switzerland and Canada four additional satellite circuits** via the earth station of Pleumeur-Bodou are to be placed in service this month, bringing the number of direct circuits between the countries to 16 (13 satellite, 3 cable).

In the **telephone service to Poland and Taiwan** rates were reduced from fr. 8.10 to fr. 7.20 and from fr. 65.40 to fr. 48.— respectively on 1 September.

### Telegraph and telex services

**The number of chargeable telex connections** rose by 141 to 16,143 in September (by 1,381 since the beginning of the year).

On 1 September 1972 **direct Gentex service** to the Faeroe Islands was introduced, so that Gentex service is now available to 20 European countries.

On 1 September **fully automatic telex service to Australia** (the 13th country outside the European continent to which such service is now available) was introduced.

On 1 September 1972 the **charge for telex calls to the Faeroe Islands** was lowered from fr. 2.15 to fr. 1.40 per minute, the transit charge for the use of the cable between Denmark and the Faeroe Islands having been reduced by the same amount.

### Radio and television services

In July and August the number of **radio receiving licences** increased by 12,637 to 1,950,278, while **television licences** rose by 15,969 to 1,505,896; 12,256 of the new TV sets are colour sets, bringing their total to 190,045.

At the end of September **14 TV transmitters on 9 different sites** were put into operation. Jaun (channel 11), Jaun Pass (channel 5) and Schwarzsee (channel 11) broadcast the first German-language programme, Einsiedeln (channels 48 and 51), Frick (channels 44 and 61), Giswil (channels 42 and 45) the second programme in French and the third programme in Italian, St. Sulpice (channels 42 and 45), Val de Travers (channels 37 and 63) the second programme in German and the third programme in Italian. Grellingen transmits the third programme of Italian-speaking Switzerland.

In mid-September **construction work on the multi-purpose station at Ravoire** began.

A **temporary PCM radio link providing 30 speaking circuits** has been placed in service between Zurich (Selnau) and Regensdorf via the Lägern relay station. It will be offering urgently needed additional circuits between the two exchanges for some months.