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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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The RATA System

J.-F. Savoy, R. Mengisen and F. Schütz, Berne

The call-duration recording equipment used in international centres will be replaced by the new RATA (*Recording and Analysis of Telephone traffic with Abroad*) system. The article describes the new equipment and the data supplied by RATA for conversation-time accounting with foreign countries as well as traffic distribution and service quality analysis.

p. 90...96

Mobile Radio: Wave Propagation and Interference

E. Wey, Berne

Field conditions and statistical data covering the 30...1000 MHz range are given for streets, buildings and tunnels. It is shown how propagation fluctuations and the principal pulse disturbances can be accurately reproduced with analog simulators for the purpose of testing systems and equipment. Interference by other radio signals is commented on with reference to the standards applying in Switzerland.

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Development of the New IV-HU Postal Coach

U. Bretscher, Berne

The IV-U alpine coaches purchased by the PTT for its postal passenger fleet between 1955 and 1968 will shortly be replaced by a new model, of which at least 100 units will be commissioned over the next five years. Based on the Saurer IV-HU underfloor rear-engined chassis, it incorporates the latest developments in coach-building and design and will be equally suitable for commuter and touring operations. The present article deals with procurement problems and the main features of the new chassis. Series production and body design will be dealt with in a later article.

News Items

Telephone

The new **emergency service number 144, Ambulance**, is now available in three network groups: Berne (031), Baden (056) and Basle (061).

Telephone directory No 12, Ticino, which comes out in April, is the first volume based entirely on the **Terco data bank**. Also new for Canton Ticino are the **«Reports on snow and skiing conditions»**, an information service available over special six-digit numbers from popular winter sports resorts.

The number of subscribers in area 3 (Zurich) of the **national carphone network (Natel)** exceeded 1100 in January. Areas 2 (Berne) and 1 (Lausanne) will open in May and June respectively.

Telegraph, Telex, Leased Circuits

Telex service to St Helena was opened on 5 January.

The PTT has decided on a **programme-controlled teleprinter PABX, EMX 1010**, to succeed the current electromechanical ESK Fs 45 by Siemens. The new system accommodates 64 terminals and is designed for both normal telex and store-and-forward operation.

The **rentals for 600 to 2400 bit modems** will be **lowered by 20 per cent** on average from 1 March following reductions in purchase prices.

Radio, Television

A new **colour television studio**, equipped by the PTT for the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, opened at the **Federal Parliament Building in Berne** on 8 February. It replaces a studio dating from the 1960s and provisionally refitted in 1976. The new equipment comprises 3 cameras, 3 video tape recorders, 1 film scanner, 2 slide scanners, a caption generator, a vision control unit with special effects desk, and a sound circuit switch with remote control facility.

Miscellaneous

A **viewdata pilot trial** with British equipment will begin in Switzerland this autumn. It will be limited to some 70 specially selected users who will have access, over the telephone network, to about 4000 pages of information stored at a centre in Berne. The trial is to enable the PTT to examine basic technical and operational problems, to gain experience, and to demonstrate the system to poten-

tial customers and information suppliers as well as equipment manufacturers.

Of the PTT's 1796 **vdv operators**, no fewer than 1162 recently volunteered to have their **eyes examined**. According to the 960 reports available so far, there are 272 cases of sight defect needing correction.

Switzerland's **telephone penetration** figures for December 1978 are: 42.5 connections and 68.1 stations for 100 population.

The PTT's **cable network** was last year extended by 272,042 wire-pair km of local line, 28,330 wire-pair km of junction line and 79 coaxial systems on trunk routes.

The **microwave telephone network** was extended by 10 links, increasing its overall length by 252 to 12,480 km of wideband circuit, or by 142,200 to 4,663,140 km of voice channel.

Satellite circuits connected permanently over **Leuk earth station** rose by 21 to 200 last year. Traffic over these circuits, which are operated to 14 extra-European countries, rose by 10 per cent while the demand for SPADE remained practically unchanged.

Telex penetration in Switzerland rose last year from 413 to 439 for 100,000 population.

The number of **leased circuits** increased from 2157 to 2500 in 1978. Teleprinter channels accounted for 35.4 pc and voice circuits for 64.6 pc. Modems rose by 33.8 pc to 9905; of these, 40 pc are used on the public telephone network and 60 pc on leased lines.

Radio penetration last year rose from 338 to 345, and **television penetration** from 292 to 301 receiving licences for 100 population.

By the end of 1978 the **Swiss television network** comprised 376 stations with 1048 transmitters and translators on three chains of 389, 324 and 335.

The **microwave network for television** was extended by 8 links in 1978, increasing its overall length by 216 to 13,946 km of wideband channel.

Nine base stations were erected for the **national carphone network (Natel)** and 8 **simplex relays** for radio communication between fixed and mobile subscribers came into operation during 1978.

The number of Swiss and foreign companies using the PTT's **Shortwave Radiophone Service with Aircraft** increased by 80 to 238 last year, and call revenue went up by 45 per cent.