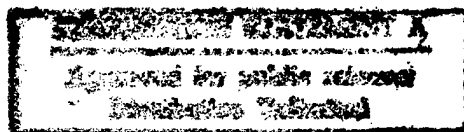


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Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 223

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WORLDWIDE REPORT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 223

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BRIEFS

FRENCH-JAPANESE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE--Following the visit of President Francois Mitterrand to Japan, formal negotiations are about to commence on the actualization of a joint French-Japanese telecommunications satellite. Japan would build the telecommunications segment and the ground infrastructure, and France would launch the satellite. [Text] [Paris AVIATION MAGAZINE INTERNATIONAL in French 1-14 May 82 p 17] 9238

CSO:5500/2233

TELECOM MONOPOLY CALLED CAUSE OF COMMUNICATIONS LAG

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 29 Apr 82 p 11

[Article by Greg Turnbull: "Telecom Attacked as Behind the Times"]

[Text]

CANBERRA. — Australia's communications system was "creaking at the seams" because of the Telecom monopoly, the head of the private consortium Business Telecommunications Services, Mr. Peter Holmes aCourt, said yesterday.

Addressing the Rural Press Club in Canberra, Mr Holmes aCourt said Telecom had lagged behind the technological revolution in communications, so that the growing demand for new types of services was not being met.

He said Telecom had performed creditably in the provision of basic services such as the telephone network, but Australians had been forced to wait too long for specialised services.

An example was the so-called "INWATS" service, where the recipient of a call could agree beforehand to accept all STD charges. This had been introduced here only recently, but had been fully operational in Canada since 1967, he said.

Business Telecommunications

Services (BTS) is a consortium established in September, 1980, by 12 of Australia's largest companies. Its chief purpose is to seek private sector involvement in the telecommunications field.

The consortium was one of the main private groups to make a submission to the Davidson inquiry, established to investigate the extent to which private companies should be allowed a wider involvement in telecommunications.

Mr Holmes aCourt stressed that private enterprise should complement, rather than replace, Telecom's activities. He said that Telecom should retain responsibility for local and STD services, and its ability to cross-subsidise rural telephone services through profits from the main capital cities should not be threatened.

An important benefit of greater private enterprise involvement in telecommunications would be to make the communications network less vulnerable to union action.

"Within Telecom, the unions have achieved astonishing power, and have demonstrated an unparalleled ability to disrupt the affairs of this nation," he said.

BRIEFS

TALK-BACK MODEM--A voice output modem designed and developed in Australia is claimed to solve problems associated with data transmission, error detection and data validation using data receiving systems by way of the public switched telephone network. According to designer and project manager, Mr Paul Wallner, of Hypercom Pty Ltd, VOM-2 (Voice Output Modem) eliminates the common problems found in relaying data using portable data entry (PDE) devices by introducing voice to prompt the user step by step through the transmission process, and removing the possibility of misinterpreted tones or "fouled" tones. "Until now, portable data entry communications have been one way only because the PDE modem is mute," he said. "In the past, data has been collected, stored in the terminal and then sent to the host computer. Little was known of how it fared. It is now possible to monitor progress of the transmission and its accurate relay. The only indication the user has had to tell him when to transmit, or whether the transmission has been successful, has been by a series of tones." [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 20 Apr 82 p 19]

'MEGAMUX' MULTIPLEXER--Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd has stepped up its pursuit of the electronic office market with the release of the Megamux. Megamux is a powerful high performance bit synchronous multiplexer with several advanced capabilities. The unit was developed in the US by General DataComm Industries Inc. AWA is the sole Australian distributor. Without devices such as the Megamux, the concept of the electronic office would remain a science fiction fantasy. The Megamux simultaneously multiplexes data for a broad variety of services including: interactive terminals, polled sub-networks, remote job entry, computer to computer communication, communicating word processors, graphics and other communicating electronic office equipment. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Apr 82 p 22]

CSO: 5500/7540

BRIEFS

NAGERCOIL, ADILABAD STATIONS--MADRAS, May 13--Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu and Adilabad in Andhra Pradesh, will have radio stations, within a year. Each will have one kw transmitter and its own small studio. Such AIR stations are being set up under the new concept that these stations alone can bring to focus district-level problems and provide opportunities for popularising and promoting local arts. The Rs. 2 crore TV relay centre at Kodaikanal is expected to be commissioned within 15 to 20 months. [Madras THE HINDU in English 14 May 82 p 12]

GANGTOK STATION PLANS--GANGTOK, May 13--An All India Radio (AIR) station would start functioning here from the end of June or July, according to the Sikkim Governor, Mr. Homi H. H. Taleyarkhan. Addressing public meetings at Singtam, Ranpo and Melli Bazars, Mr. Taleyarkhan said work on the 10 kW AIR station was nearing completion and this would be followed by a 20 kW radio station in due course. [Madras THE HINDU in English 14 May 82 p 16]

SATELLITE WEATHER DATA SHARED--India has agreed to share the data to be received by the INSAT-1A with its neighbouring countries to improve the disaster warning system of the entire region, stated director-general, meteorology, P. K. Das in the Capital on Wednesday. At a conference, on tropical cyclones held in Madras recently it was decided that India will now be the focal point for storing data and issuing timely warnings on cyclones in the region. Experts from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Burma attended the conference along with representatives from world bodies looking after disaster relief. The entire eastern coast will soon be covered with adequate cyclone-tracking radar station with the installation of the seventh Indian radar at Port Blair by the end of the year, stated Dr Das. This has been achieved with the help of the radars set up by Bangladesh, Burma and Sri Lanka and one at Masulipatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Besides the obsolete radar station at Vishnukapatnam has also been replaced, he added. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 May 82 p 4]

NATIONAL TELEVISION HOOKUP--MADRAS, May 19 (UNI)--All Doordarshan stations in the country, except those in Calcutta, Lucknow and Hyderabad will be brought under a national hookup through microwave from one June. Madras Doordarshan station director S. K. Kapoor said today that the national programmes would be telecast between 2030 hrs and 2200 hrs every day with common news bulletins in Hindi and English. He said with the commissioning of the national hookup, the transmission duration of the Madras station would go up by one-and-a-half hours

to five hours a day. On week days the programmes would start at 1800 hrs instead of 1830 hrs and on Saturdays and Sundays at 1730 hrs. Though the original proposal was to use INSAL IA satellite for the hook-up, it would take some more time to make use of the satellite, Mr Kapoor said. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 May 82 p 10]

CSO: 5500/7147

MINISTER'S CALL FOR FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 22 May 82 p 3

[Text]

PYONGYANG, May 21: Pakistan's Information and Broadcasting Minister Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq has emphasised the need for a free and balanced flow of information between the Third World countries per se and others to create and foster better understanding between nations inhabiting the globe.

He made these observations in a message sent to the seventh non-aligned news-pool coordination committee which met at DPRK capital.

Inaugurated by the Premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Li Jong Ok, the meeting was attended by over 150 delegates from 60 non-aligned countries including Pakistan and several international agencies.

Wishing the "momentous meeting", held in the picturesque city of Pyongyang, a success in its deliberations, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq remarked that it remained his earnest desire that the deliberations led to a concrete and concerted action towards breaking the near monopoly of world news dissemination now in the hands of just four agencies.

Raja Zafarul Haq said this was a situation which negated the very concept of the free flow of information, smothering the viewpoints, the perceptions and even the quantum of information emanating from the Third World.

He said the resultant distortion

of public opinion did injustice to by far the greater section of the humanity and in the long run did not good to the high and mighty, who would arbitrarily impose their view of events and issues on all and sundry not only within the confines of their own territories but also way beyond to the farthest corners of the globe. Zafarul Haq said he was saying this with no anger or animosity towards any particular sections of humanity but in the interest of mankind.

Zafarul Haq remarked that Pakistan, as in all other sectors of human activity, urged in the information sector also a just order designed to promote and not impair the development of any part of mankind at the expense of another.

"I am convinced that the ideal world order that we seek will continue to elude our grasp so long as these existing imbalances remain", he emphasised.

He said the challenge before the participants was to translate the cherished ideal into reality with concrete and sustained action within the field of their immediate competence and concern.

Zafarul Haq concluded his message with the prayer, "May your deliberations be productive, your endeavours successful, your actions matching, your vision and your vision acting as a constant spur towards relentless action".

WESTERN MEDIA'S DOMINATION OF THIRD WORLD COMMUNICATION CRITICIZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 May 82 p 4

[Editorial: "For a New World Information Order"]

[Text]

AT its recent annual meeting in Madrid, the International Press Institute was engaged in a debate on various aspects of Press freedom and the question of a new international information order (NIIO). This debate has been going on for the last several years, principally, as an off-shoot of the debate over the new international economic order. At its seventh meeting of the coordinating committee of the News Agencies pool of Non Aligned Countries held in Pyongyang recently, calls were issued for a new world information order. The West and the Third World have expressed divergent views on this issue. On just one recent aspect, the licensing of journalists, different views were expressed. The Third World sees this as a positive measure aimed at providing necessary protection to journalists in situations of emergency, while the West sees it as an unnecessary curb on the freedom of movement of journalists. The debate has now become a more fundamental and basic one. The West bemoans the lack of freedom in Third World countries, while the latter feel that the Press must serve the development needs of their respective societies.

To our minds, the debate must be examined in the context of the Third World countries. In this regard, the important thing is the role which the Press as an institution plays. In most Third World societies, the Press remains one of the very weak institutions which are frequent targets for the Government. In regards freedom of Press, this is also periodically violated under the broader framework of so-called "national security".

However, on the aspect of control of the media by selected Western agencies, this needs to be examined with clarity. The Western media plays a very significant role in serving as a channel of information and opinion building, not only in this part of the world, but also in the Third World. The Western media exercises control on the flow of information to such an extent that it almost borders on cultural aggression. Eighty per cent of the world's news emanates from four Western Press agencies. The United States controls two-thirds of news flow in the non-communist world. In fact what the Western Press puts out is what the world reads. Another element in this discussion is that on foreign policy issues, the Western media and the Western Governments have similar perceptions.

In other words, they have the same worldview in that they look at international developments through the same eyes. This is not to say that the Western media is under Government control, but that from the ideological and cultural perspectives, they see the situation in a similar light. In terms of their claims of 'objectivity', these are hardly tenable. Even the BBC world service is subject to funding and advice from its Foreign Office.

In our own country, the Press is one of the key institutions which have been targeted for control by successive Governments. But despite heavy odds and difficulties, the Press has stood up in support of freedom of expression. Interestingly enough, while our Press is subjected to official manipulation and censorship, two forms of media have been beyond the purview of the censors. One is, of course, the BBC Urdu Service which has a very wide audience-courtesy medium-wave transistors, and the other is rumour, which spreads like wild fire and more often than not, has some basis in fact. The quest for a new international information order is no doubt long and arduous but, it is nevertheless necessary, as this is the one way of removing misconceptions and distortions. For too long the field has been left open for the Western media to exploit to its advantage. The time has now come for Third World countries to allow a Press without shackles internally, while externally endeavouring to counter Western media propaganda which is churned out with subtlety and sophistication in this global battle for "hearts and minds."

CSO: 5500/5822

RADIO SEEN AS PSYCHE MOLDER

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 May 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Radio's Role"]

[Text]

The Central Advisory Committee of the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation met in Islamabad the other day to undertake a comprehensive review of radio programmes and suggest new measures to further improve them in line with its assigned role in the national set-up. The committee took note of radio's role in strengthening national unity and identity through religious items and appreciated its contribution to the success of the Independence Day celebrations on August 14 last year. It was recommended that the programmes for the projection of national ideology should focus on the younger generation who need special guidance and education in this regard. The committee was also of the view that the frequency of women's programmes should be increased and opportunities created for greater participation of women in radio broadcasts.

The powerful influence exercised by the medium of radio needs no emphasis. Among all the media of mass communication

radio is the most potent, for it reaches the largest number of people. Its coverage is 100 per cent; it reaches the remotest corners of the country. By contrast, TV's coverage is limited; newspapers go to still fewer people because of the low literacy rate. This facility of mass communication is everywhere used for the projection of national interests and policies both internally and externally. This is particularly true of an ideological State where the task of educating and enlightening the masses is of crucial importance. In the last four years there has been a great deal of healthy transformation in radio transmissions. There is now greater stress on the promotion of national ideology, and religious programmes have increased both in frequency and duration as part of the Islamisation process. The two specific target audiences—the younger generation and women—pinpointed by the Advisory Committee however have not yet received the attention they deserve. It is admit-

ted on all hands that not much has been done for the ideological training of the rising generations and to properly inform them of the great struggle and sacrifices that went into the making of Pakistan. Radio is in a unique position to fill this gap in the national psyche. Carefully planned programmes executed with the participation of students can do a lot for projecting Islamic values and the ideological training of the young. Similarly, special programmes for women with particular emphasis on the needs of the rural section of the country's female population can prove instrumental in creating among them a sense of involvement in national development activities. It is in the homes that a nation is raised and Radio's capacity to communicate directly with the home-builders must be more fully utilised.

CSO: 5500/5822

THE STATE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN PAKISTAN DISCUSSED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 17 May 82 Supplement pp 1, II, IV

[Article by Khalid Jalil]

[Text]

Inland Communications: As of June 1981, Pakistan had about 3,65,000 Exchange line capacity of which 91 per cent was automatic and the rest were manual exchange lines. There were about 3,58,000 telephones instruments and about 2,81,900 telephone lines for a population of 84 millions people. This gives in average the telephone density of just over 4.3 telephone per 1,000 people which is very low by world standards and far too low to meet the information flow needs of the country's economy. Despite the deterrent of long waits that are usually measured in years, the waiting list for new telephone connections is about 2,00,000. In other words only 61 per cent of the total demand has been met so far. This pending demand statistics are only maintained in communities that have already been provided with telephone services and thus understate real demand in the country as a whole. There is also a serious imbalance of telecommunication development between urban and rural areas.

In the present day world, administrations, rich or poor have become increasingly aware of the important role telecommunication plays in the social and economic progress of a country. Pakistan like other developing countries in the world has confronted many special problems in involving an integrated economy. For a balanced growth in various

sectors of economy, adequate telecommunication facilities are very vital. The T & T Department which is entrusted with the responsibility of providing and maintaining telecommunication facilities in the country, has been aware of the requirements and has been planning and executing on both short and long terms basis various schemes to cater for telecommunication needs in the country. The sizes of the schemes have of course been restricted due to limited foreign exchange availability, financial constraints and priority imposed by the Government. [words missing]

and only 22 per cent in the thousands of other small towns and villages in the rural areas. There are at present about 7,000 long distance circuits out of which nearly 5,400 circuits are being used for Nation Wide Dialling (NWD) and STD Service. NWD Service is at present available for 50 cities and ETD service to 15 centres. The long distance circuits are being provided both through the high capacity coaxial cable and Microwave links operating in the length and breadth of the country. Telex services are available to 11 major cities with about 2,439 subscribers. The wide band Microwave links have the provision to carry IV Programmes within the country.

OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS: Overseas telephone telegraph and telex services are provided mainly through the Satellite

communication links with the World. For this purpose a Satellite Earth Station and the International Gateway Exchange and Switching Centre have been set up in Karachi. The Satellite Earth Station which operates with the IN-TELSAT Communications Satellite in the Indian Ocean Region has at present the capacity for 300 Satellite circuits of which over 259 are operational. Overseas T.V. Programmes can be received and transmitted through this Earth Station facilities. Out of the 259 circuits, 17 circuits are dedicated for telegraph and telex working directly with 16 countries (more countries are available on transit). The remaining 242 circuits are providing automatic, semi-automatic and manual telephone circuits directly to 24 countries and over 156 countries on transit basis.

The automatic service (International Subscriber Dialling-I.S.D.) is available for the moment with 14 different countries namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, France, Italy, West Germany, Switzerland, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Oman, Bahrain, Singapore and U.K. This facility is likely to be extended to other major countries as well. The semi-automatic service (operator trunk dialling-O.T.D.) is available to all other countries except for China, India, Bangladesh, Turkey, which operate on manual telephone circuits (operator to operator working). The automatic and semi-automatic telephone service is being controlled and operated through the International Gateway Exchange at Karachi which started operation in July, 1980. This Gateway Exchange has at present a capacity to handle 300 international telephone circuits. This capacity can be expanded upto 900 circuits. This Gateway Exchange handles the overseas traffic to and from all the NWD centres in the country (50 cities). The ISD service can be provided to about 25,000 subscrib-

ers initially and is at present limited to cities namely Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Karachi, Lahore Faisalabad, Quetta, Peshawar only. At the moment this Exchange is handling about 3.5 millions paid minutes per month of Overseas Telephone traffic or about 16,000 calls daily. HF Radio links for telephone and telegraph traffic is working with Moscow, Thailand (Bangkok) Nepal (Katmandu) and Nairobi. Overhead carrier lines are operating with India alone at present.

Future Expansion Programmes.

The T & T Department from the very beginning has been operating under great pressure over which it has no control planning remained subject to financial constraints.

The T & T Department is faced with the challenges of rapid growing demand, clearing of the back-log and the rapid changes in the technology development, besides maintaining and operating the existing facilities efficiently. The under-provision of the subscriber connections and inadequate expansion of the network has resulted in very heavy use of the available telephone, rapid increase of subscriber busy conditions and repeat call attempts, together with overloading of the exchange equipment. All such factors contribute heavily to the poor service in the major city networks. The T & T Department has been well-aware of these factors and has been planning both on short and long-term various schemes to

improve the situation.

But due to the limited foreign exchange funds availability, financial constraints and priorities imposed by the Government the T & T Department had to curtail the size of its development schemes and as such it seems that for a few years under the conventional pattern of development so far conceived no remarkable change in the existing situation could take place. Within the limited foreign exchange/local currency fund availability and the financial constraints and priorities of the Government, the T & T Department has approved plans to expand its present telecommunication network under the Mid-Term plan period (1982-84) to meet the following objectives :

(i) **TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AND LOCAL NETWORK:** The T & T Department will provide 1,40,000 additional lines in the next three years in the country. The local cable network will accordingly be expanded by augmenting the network with additional cable and PCM links. There will be a replacement of 9000 old telephone exchange lines by new switching system. The expansion of telex exchanges will be made for additional 3200 subscribers along with the expansion of telex and telegraph network.

(ii) **LONG DISTANCE NETWORK:** (a) Augmentation of the existing microwave network capacity to handle additional 5000 channels to cater for ever-increasing inland long distance traffic.

(b) Installation of High Capacity Microwave link between Karachi-Uthal-Bela-Khuzdar-Quetta-D.G. Khan-D.I. Khan-Peshawar.

This link besides providing alternate route for telephone and TV traffic will also cater for additional requirements for long distance communication and extension of TV channels to the interior of Baluchistan and NWFP. This link will have an initial capacity for carrying 1800 long distance telephone channels and an exclusive TV programme.

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS: For improvement of telecommunication facilities in

the rural areas, T & T Department has planned to provide low capacity manual exchanges in smaller towns in the country along with expansion in trunk outlet facilities. In addition 300 long distance PCOs will be provided in the rural areas of the four Provinces of Pakistan.

OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) Expansion of the existing Overseas Communication links by expanding the existing satellites Earth Station (at Dehmandro) capacity from 300 channels to 384 channels. Expansion of the International Gateway Exchange capacity is also planned accordingly.

(2) Setting up of a Second Satellite Earth Station and a Gateway Exchange at Islamabad to cater for the future overseas traffic requirements beyond 1983-84 and diversifying the overseas outlet centres.

(3) Upgradation of the Microwave link between Pakistan-Iran.

(4) Transborder linkage on coaxial cable between Lahore-Amritsar for India-Pakistan Telecommunication traffic as a part of the Asian Telecommunication Network.

(5) Pakistan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with JAE to establish Submarine Cable link between Karachi and Fujaira (UAE) of 1,200 channel capacity to cater for international traffic between the two countries and other Gulf States. With the implementation of Submarine Cable link diversity of media for overseas communication would also be available. This link is planned to be made operational by 1985.

MODERNISATION AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES:

Telecommunication is rapid developing technology. Digital technology is finding place rapidly in the Switching and Transmission Network thereby increasing traffic handling capacities and offering improved service at lesser cost. Digitalized and low power consumption microwave systems have been developed. Revolution in switching application is going to take place with the introduction of digital switching and local network expansion using digital transmission and fibre optics.

Information flow in the form of data transmission is being widely introduced the world over under the name of telematic services. The T & T Department is carrying out studies for introduction of these latest technologies in its future telecommunication plans.

TRAINING AND RESEARCH: In order to carry out development and efficient maintenance and operation of the telecommunication services in the country adequate training facilities to produce trained manpower in the various fields of telecommunication is a basic requirement. Training centres for producing various levels of technical staff are available in the country. These facilities are being expanded to cater for the ever-increasing trained manpower requirements and the changing advanced technologies.

A Research Centre has been set up at Islamabad with the objective of undertaking design and developments of telecommunication equipments and systems for the specific requirements of the T & T Department. The aim is to produce such equipment at comparatively lower cost and attain self-sufficiency as a long term objective.

CSO: 5500/5822

BRIEFS

TELEPHONE USE FIGURES--As of June 1981, there are 784 telephone exchanges in the country and 974 long distance public call offices (L.D. PCOs) serving the rural areas. Of the many thousands of communities in the country only about 1758 places had an access to telephone service. Out of the 2,81,900 telephone subscribers about 54 per cent alone are concentrated in the three major cities of Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad/Rawalpindi with a further 24 per cent in the other larger towns [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 17 May 82 Supplement p 1]

CSO: 5500/5822

MORE MONEY TO BE SPENT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Beijing DIANKIN JISHU [TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY] in English May 82 p 44

[Text]

Beijing, February 27 (Xinhua) — China has decided to spend more money on telecommunications so that from now to 1985, international and domestic services will be drastically improved, according to the Ministry of Post and Communications.

Capital investment earmarked for post and telecommunications will amount to 250 million yuan this year, accounting for 1.2 percent of China's total investment on capital construction for 1982. Money used for post and telecommunications averaged 0.8 percent of the total capital construction cost between 1950 and 1981, according to the Ministry.

Beginning ~~from~~ this year, the Ministry and local post and telecommunications bureaus will be allowed to retain 90 percent of their profits and foreign exchange income mainly for upgrading their equipment. Formerly, they were allowed to retain 80 percent of their profits and 60 percent of their foreign exchange income.

In the years from now to 1985, said the Ministry, low-interest bank loans to the Ministry will also be increased. The Ministry will use bank loans to import program control telephone exchange systems to streamline facilities in Beijing, Shanghai and other cities.

Permission has been granted to post and telecommunications departments to rent international communications satellite chan-

nels for use in domestic communications.

The overall goal, said the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, is to increase the number of telephones in cities from two million to 2.7 million, introduce long distance dialing in the capitals of all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, and streamline international telephone services in three major international cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

CSO: 5500/4016

BAGUIO INSTALLS DIGITAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 19 May 82 p 22

[Text] Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel) invested ₱42.0 million for its new 6,000-line digital electronic telephone exchange in Baguio city, the first of its kind in the country.

The new system was designed to replace Piltel's existing 5400-line HKS 442 crossbar switching equipment and provide additional lines to meet the requirements of the city.

The equipment was supplied by ITT North Telecommunications of Johnson City, Tennessee, and installed by its local representative, ITT Philippines, Inc.

The foreign currency requirements of US\$3.5 million was financed by Private Development Corporation of the Philippines (PDCP) from its IBRD and ADB lines.

Paterno Kintanar, Piltel chairman-president, said the digital system will provide new service features like push button dialing, conference calls, call forwarding, abbreviated dialing or speed calling, call waiting, directory number transfer and hot lines to interested users at nominal monthly costs.

In the near future, he added, direct distance dialing (DDD) will also be offered to local subscribers in

cooperation with the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT).

Aside from Baguio city, Piltel is also in the process of expanding and improving its telephone systems in southern Philippines like in Gov. Santos in South Cotabato, Digos in Davao del Sur, Puerto Princesa in Palawan, and also in Masbate, Masbate, Boac and Sta. Cruz in Marinduque, and Olongapo and Subic in Zamboanga.

CUBA

BRIEFS

INVESTMENTS IN COMMUNICATIONS--Havana, 12 May (AFP)--It was announced today that Cuba's investments in the development of radio, telephone, telex-telegraph and satellite communications for the present 5-year period will amount to more than \$360 million. By the end of this period, Cuba will have automated 79 percent of its telephone services. In 5 years, the telephone network will receive \$280 million in investments. [PA311237 Paris AFP in Spanish 2242 GMT 12 May 82]

CSO: 5500/2256

MEXICO

BRIEFS

'CISA' NEWS AGENCY CLOSES--Mexico City, 28 May (NOTIMEX)--The CISA [Comunicacion e Informacion, S.A.] News Agency will stop transmitting on 31 May, a company spokesman reported here today. The agency, founded in 1976 by a group of newsmen formerly of EXCELSIOR, was experiencing serious economic difficulties. CISA also publishes the weekly magazine PROCESO, which will remain in circulation. [FL282357 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2250 GMT 28 May 82 FL]

CSO: 5500/2252

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

BAHRAIN-EGYPT TELEPHONE LINK--Bahrain Telecommunications Company adds Egypt to its international subscriber dialing service [ISD] list from tomorrow. The introduction of the service is part of the continuous programme aimed at providing ISD to all countries in the world from Bahrain. [Excerpt] [GF311115 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 31 May 82 p 5]

CSO: 5500/4723

BRIEFS

BAHRAIN-OMAN TELEPHONE LINK--Bahrain introduced a direct telephone dialing link to Oman yesterday to mark the Amir's visit to the sultanate. Announcing the decision, Ibrahim Humaydan, minister of transport and chairman of Bahrain telecommunications company, said Oman was the only GCC member state up until yesterday not to have a direct dialing link with Bahrain. "The introduction of an international subscriber dialing service will further strengthen the friendship and brotherhood which link the people of both countries" he said. [Excerpt] [GF251145 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 25 May 82]

CSO: 5500/4723

HEAD OF INFORMATION AGENCY INTERVIEWED

Djibouti LA NATION DJIBOUTI in French 25 Mar 82 p 4

[Article: "The Djibouti Information Agency: An Information Network in the Djibouti Image"]

[Text] The DJIBOUTI INFORMATION AGENCY, ADJI, has just launched its first issues last week, having chosen last 4 March, the date the RPP (Popular Movement for Progress) celebrated its thrid anniversary, for its first issue.

We recall that the ADJI has existed since 1 March 1978, the date of its creation by the Council of Ministers, and there are several reasons for its delay. Taking into account the importance this agency will assume in political, educational and informational activities, it seemed to us worthwhile to consult the officials of the said agency.

[Question] Mr Kamil Ali, you are in charge of press and information at the Presidency of the Republic. Can you tell us why the government was in a hurry to create a national information agency a year after the country's independence?

[Answer] Before replying to your question I should like to point out to you that the Djibouti people are traditionally devoted to news. Djibouti people living in the bush (the nomads) are more than anything else interested in the watering place and in news.... The latter is their real point of reference. Now, to reply to your question, after independence the government, being aware of the importance of news, plunged ahead to create an information agency which would serve other press organizations, both written and pictorial, with news reflecting the country's reality.

[Question] Where are the agency's headquarters?

[Answer] At present our headquarters are at the Presidency of the Republic. But in the near future we expect to move into the building of the Tourism Office, Place 27 June. There is a simple reason for this. There are no access facilities at the Presidency for reporters to bring us the latest news so we decided to establish ourselves outside the Presidency so that those people may have access to us.

[Question] What role will the agency play in the politics and economy of the country?

[Answer] The DJIBOUTI INFORMATION AGENCY will play a top role at the national level, informing the people of Djibouti about what is really happening in their country and in their localities through our daily news bulletin, and, of course, other existing organs of the press such as LA NATION and the RTD [Radio Television of Djibouti]. I repeat, the principal role of ADJI will consist of informing the people of Djibouti, first of all so as to help them be able to reject all distorted foreign news reports. On the regional level we expect to cooperate reciprocally with the regional press agencies. At Khartoum, moreover, the East Africa pool of the PAN-AFRICAN PRESS AGENCY is currently operating.

[Question] However small it may be, the role of a national press agency is to furnish the country's press all the news it needs. Will ADJI be able to furnish news to the RTD and LA NATION?

[Answer] You forget the agency has existed on paper for 4 years; in practice, it has existed for only a few days. Because of the lack of material resources, both financial and human, it took 4 years to start it. We are at present a very small team (two), but thanks to the next Finance Bill, we expect to recruit some journalists.

9772
CSO: 5500/5751

GROWTH IN TELEPHONE SERVICES NOTED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 18 May 82 p 8

[Text]

ADDIS ABABA (EH) — There has been a rapid expansion of the telephone services in the country since 1953.

This was revealed by Comrade Seyoum Gebre Christos, Manager of the Engineering Department of the Ethiopian Telecommunications Authority (ETA), in connection with the World Telecommunication Day, which was globally marked yesterday. Figures released by ETA show that the number of telephones in the country has gone up from 3,640 in 1953 to 60,778 and 93,660 in 1973 and 1981, respectively. The number of places having telephone services in Ethiopia was 43 in 1953, which has steadily climbed to 338 in 1973 and 460 in 1981. In 1953 there were only three automatic telephone exchanges in Ethiopia, which number has grown to 14 in 1973 and 21 in 1981.

Comrade Seyoum said that a programme was launched in 1973 to ex-

tend the microwave system linking Addis Ababa with Dessie, Makelle and Asmara. He said at that time there were only 24 channels between Addis Ababa and Asmara functioning with the help of open wire carrier system. He said this system caused delay for subscribers calling from Addis Ababa to get connected to subscribers in Dessie, Makelle and Asmara. He said what is more much longer delays were experienced while making overseas calls. The manager said the first microwave project connecting the capital with Dessie, Makelle and Asmara was completed in 1973, which equally marks the introduction of direct dial services between the four cities and towns.

The manager of the Engineering Department noted that from 1974 onwards the objectives of the national policy of integration and development have been rapidly and fully attained through the installation of an adequate basic national telecommunication system. He said this system

permits long-distance connections without the use of operators, which also embraces local and international and telegraphic services and data transmission. He said the installation of new automatic exchanges is enabling an increasing number of people in Ethiopia to make use of direct distance dialling method, as a result of which long distance telephone traffic is growing fast.

Comrade Seyoum said communication with other countries is maintained through the International Telecommunication Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), by using the Sululta Satellite Earth Station, located north of Addis Ababa. He stressed that the expansion and modernization programmes have resulted in very high growth in the number of telephones, trunk lines and communication channels as well as the installation of automatic and trunk exchanges.

The manager said that communication with Kenyan and Djibouti is not done via satellite but by the use of microwave system because of the short distance involved. He said this service has been regarded as more cost-effective than the satellite system or installing physical lines. He said the microwave system also provides patching services whereby telephone services can be given to places lying along the route.

CSO: 5500/5824

WEST GERMAN TEAM TO UPGRADE 'LINA' COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 21 May 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

A two-man West German technical team headed by Mr. Klaus Grafe, electronic technician at the Siemens company in Munich arrived here recently to upgrade and expand the communication network of the Liberia News Agency, (LINA).

The team is in Liberia under a contractual agreement with the West German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the implementing arm of the West German Government's aid package to developing countries, to install a \$300,000 communications equipment to existing facilities at LINA.

The other member of the team, Mr. Manfred Kuhner, a technician at Siemens has already installed VFT machines at the Liberia Broadcasting System (ELBS) and Radio ELWA to facilitate the immediate flow of information from LINA's central newsroom to the two radio stations, newspaper offices and other subscribers.

The team is also expected to install another VFT machine at the LINA Tubmanburg Bureau in Boni Territory shortly to speed up the flow of news from that territory to LINA's central office.

Mr. Grafe told LINA in an interview Wednesday that his team has already modified communications network at the LINA bureaux in Grand Bassa, Sinoe and Maryland Counties by introducing the multiplex system which, he said, was of the highest standard in modern communication equipment because of its sophistication.

The West German Agency for Technical Cooperation which is instrumental in the expansion program of LINA, has been the supportive arm of the agency since its establishment in 1979, through aid from the German Government.

The Director General of LINA, Mr. Edward A. Davis, said in an interview that the agreement between the Liberian and West German

Governments to establish
LINA ends in August this
year, but expressed optimism
that efforts would be made
to renew agreement since
LINA is not yet completely
established throughout the
country.

He said most of the ter-
ritories were not connected
with the LINA system, while
districts with more than
10,000 people would have to
also be hooked up to the
system.

CSO: 5500/5816

KEETMANSHOOP AND VICINITY MAY SOON GET TELEVISION

Windhoek REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 21 Apr 82 p 3

[Text] Possibly before the middle of this year Keetmanshoop can have its own television if talks between the town's council, the South-West Africa Broadcasting Corporation (SWAUK), The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SAUK) and other government entities involved, proceed favorably.

Last week, during its monthly meeting the town's council gave the order to the executive committee to negotiate as it saw fit in order to obtain television for Keetmanshoop.

The plan is to televise programs from South Africa to Keetmanshoop. If approval from the parties concerned is obtained then color television will be transmitted to Keetmanshoop from South Africa by means of microwave towers and there are also enough auxiliary channels to do this.

The town clerk of Keetmanshoop, Mr Dries Engelbrecht, yesterday told the REPUBLIKEIN that the town council is now doing everything in its power in conducting talks with SWAUK so that the latter can provide guidance in this matter. The sooner the talks can take place, the sooner Keetmanshoop will get the green light to go on with its plans and the sooner the inhabitants of the town and the farmers in the vicinity will be given the opportunity of sharing in the television.

According to Mr Engelbrecht it is reasonably easy to get television for Keetmanshoop from South Africa if it is approved. If such a project is approved it will be a question of weeks before Keetmanshoop will have its own television.

The town council broadcasts will be working on a similar basis as those which are video-broadcast in Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

According to Mr Engelbrecht surveys made earlier have shown that there is a potential number of viewers of about 500 to 700 in Keetmanshoop and the surroundings. According to the plans now being made inhabitants of Keetmanshoop itself and farmers within a radius of 50 kilometers of Keetmanshoop can share the television if approval for its transmission can be obtained.

Mr Engelbrecht said that the Walvis Bay project showed that there is very good collaboration between SWAUK and SAUK and he believes that there will be no problems in obtaining television for Keetmanshoop on a similar basis.

He expressed the hope that Keetmanshoop will also be having television before the middle of the year.

7964

CSO: 5500/5790

BRIEFS

RADIO, TELEVISION BOARDS--New zonal boards have been constituted for the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN). There are six zones for the NTA and each is made up of eight members including the chairman, while FRCN has four zones comprising each of 10 members including the chairman. Announcing this in Lagos the Federal Department of Information said the President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari had approved the appointments of the chairmen and members of the various zonal boards of the bodies. The appointments took effect from May 1.

[Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English May 82 p 3]

CSO: 5500/5817

NEW TELEPHONE EXCHANGE IN THIAROYE OPENED

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 21 Apr 82 p 3

[Article by Pape Sedikh Mbodje: "New Telephone Exchange in Thiaroye Cost 600 Million CFA Francs"]

[Text] Minister of Information and Telecommunications Djibo Ka yesterday

[20 April] presided over the inauguration of the new telephone exchange in Thiaroye. This telephone exchange fits in very well with the national telecommunications plan, which showed how necessary it was to complete automation of the telecommunications network in general and of that in the Cap Vert area in particular. The establishment of this automatic switching center is a part of the government program to provide telephone service for subscribers in the industrial free zone and the cities of Pikine, Guediawaye, Thiaroye and Yeumbeul.

This program seeks to improve the quality of the service provided to the 600 subscribers in this telephone area by connecting them to an automatic switching center. Previously, they were connected to Medina through the Thiaroye telephone center. The program is also aimed at increasing the service capacity of the zone, since the existing center had been at the saturation point for the past 3 years.

With this center for 1,000 telephone subscribers (including the 600 present subscribers), 400 new subscribers theoretically can be added (because making the necessary adjustments to the cable network has not yet been done) in the initial phase. In the second phase, an extension of this center will be undertaken to bring the capacity to 3,000 subscribers at the same time as the cable network is relieved of existing congestion.

This extension of the center will have the objective of connecting all new requests for service from the industrial free zone that have been made so far. It will be possible, over the middle term, to raise the capacity to 10,000 subscribers without an extension of the building.

The cost of this program amounts to CFA fr 245 million for the equipment, of which 30 percent (CFA fr 72.6 million) was initially financed by the industrial free zone and 70 percent (CFA fr 172.4 million) by the OPT [Postal and Telecommunications Office]. The building cost CFA fr 300 million, financed by the OPT. In all, the project will have cost CFA fr 600 million.

In the speech he made at the inauguration of the new center, Minister Djibo Ka indicated that this center, in its impact on the activities and the different transactions of the companies located in the industrial free zone, symbolizes the support for the promotion of trade that telecommunications has in the national economy.

With this program, the minister let it be known, the government is showing once again its desire to help the national economy recover. After the inauguration on 30 November 1981 of PANAFTEL [Pan-African Telecommunications Network] by the chief of state, Minister Ka added, the Thiaroye center comes just in time because the program to reduce congestion in the Dakar telephone cable network is provided for, among other no less important projects, in the high-priority plan of the OPT.

The minister of information and telecommunications took advantage of the opportunity to thank the administrator of the free trade zone, who participated in this important project. Minister Ka stated that this provides a fine example of the participation of the users in the development of the telecommunications network.

He said that this program proves that the authorities and businessmen are making the development of telecommunications into a national issue. Each of the parties has a role to play because the size of the investment involved for complete automation is so great that the support of businessmen and of the banks at the side of the government is considerable. He also noted that having control of the national telecommunications network remains one of the essential aspects of sovereignty.

He also indicated that the privileged position of Dakar imposes on us the determination and will to build one of the best telecommunications networks in West Africa. Minister of Information Djibo Ka congratulated the officials and technicians of the OPT before exhorting them to show proof of the same dynamism in following up the projects and especially in maintaining and improving what has already been accomplished. He also congratulated the CGCT Company, the French firm that installed the equipment, as well as the Cheikh Ngom architectural company, the CSE [Senegalese Enterprise Company] and the various construction firms that helped complete the building.

5170
CSO: 5500/5792

BRIEFS

PHONE LINKS--Upper Volta plans to expand its telecommunications network with the help of an SDR14.9m. (\$17m.) credit from the International Development Association. To increase local and long distance services in the south-western and western provinces, where many agricultural projects are underway, the government is undertaking a \$40.6m. project to be implemented by the country's Office des Postes et Télécommunications (OPT). The project will provide about 3,600 lines of local automatic telephone exchange equipment in Ouagadougou, the capital, and 4,000 lines in Bobo-Dioulasso. Containerised telephone exchanges will be supplied in six secondary centres. Additional equipment included in the project will help to extend the national automatic transit exchange in Ouagadougou and introduce central automatic message accounting for long distance and international traffic. The project will also provide a number of other transmission routes including Bobo-Dioulasso-Diebouyou-Gaoua. Besides the IDA credit, co-financing for the project will include \$13m. from the Caisse Centrale de Co-opération Economique of France and \$3.2m. from the Government of the Netherlands. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 24 May 82 p 1405]

CSO: 5500/5821

ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE, BOTSWANA MICROWAVE NETWORK PLANNED

Lusaka DAILY MAIL in English 26 May 82 p 5

[Text]

AN AGREEMENT paving the way for the implementation of a microwave network to link Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana has been signed.

The agreement was signed by Norway and Sweden who are undertaking construction work on one hand and the governments of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana on the other.

This was said in Lusaka yesterday by Norwegian consul resident in Zambia, Mr Khristian Petersen, who added that construction work is expected to start as soon as the equipment needed for the work arrives in the countries to be linked by the microwave.

Mr Petersen explained that the electronic equipment needed for the project is expected in the country between August and September.

He added that the microwave network, which is expected to cost K14 million, would be completed by the middle of next year.

"However, the K14 million may be extended to link Angola and Namibia when that country becomes independent," Mr Petersen explained.

On the training programme, Mr Petersen said Zambians, Zimbabweans and Botswana nationals would be trained to man the micro-

wave network before 1984.

"We expect to leave all the work to Zambians by 1984 since the training programme will also be included in the K14 million programme," he said.

Work on the project will be undertaken by Ericsson, a Swedish firm and Nera of Norway.

It is hoped that once the microwave network becomes operational, it will reduce the three countries' dependence on South Africa in communications.

The communications network will be connected to Livingstone in Zambia, Francistown in Botswana and Harare in Zimbabwe.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SA PROPAGANDA RADIO ALLEGED

Harare THE HERALD in English 15 May 82 p 1

[Text]

GWERU:

SOUTH AFRICA, in association with the spy Captain Frank Gericke, is establishing a so-called "Voice of Zimbabwe" north of Pretoria to be beamed in a few months time to the Midlands and North Matabeleland, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Mr Emmerson Munangagwa, told last night's annual meeting of the Midlands Chamber of Industries.

"This clearly is a propaganda adventure by the Botha regime whose sole aim is to destabilise the socio-economic and political fabric of our society and country," he said.

"I am stating this so that the industrial sector can be aware of the inimical machinations of the enemy so that with ample knowledge you may be able to tighten your belts and declare: "We will succeed in Zimbabwe," he said.

He went on: "South Africa has not achieved success in its race policies.

"Any success in Zimbabwe's race relations is obviously detrimental to the doctrine of apartheid in South Africa. Our policy of reconciliation has enabled this country to reap a harvest of peace,

confidence, solidarity and togetherness which even the wise men of the east in the Bible could not have thought possible after Lancaster House.

"Why then should we allow ourselves to be distracted from this goal by a clique who themselves are divided in their own land on the basis of colour?

"I do not know of any democratic country where a political party, not in power, having been found with arms and ammunition and missiles, can still have leaders free to move around, speak to the Press and to do as before

"I feel confident in assuring industrialists that the state of security in the country gives me no cause for concern," he said.

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS JOINING ARSC

Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 7 May 82 p 3

[Text] THE Zimbabwe Government is considering applying for membership of the African Remote Sensing Council (ARSC) said the national co-ordinator for Remote Sensing for Zimbabwe, Ambrose Made.

Mr Made, who is a member of the staff of the Geological Survey Department in the Ministry of Mines, has recently returned to this country from attending a series of meetings and conferences in Kinshasa, Zaire and Nairobi.

MEMBERSHIP

The national co-ordinator said that Zimbabwe attended the meetings and conferences as an observer to see the operation of the ARSC, "as we are considering seeking membership". He added that his trips to Kinshasa and Nairobi were financed by the United States Agency for International Development (AID).

"Remote sensing is the detection of the presence of mineral, water and other natural deposits in the earth by the use of instruments located above the earth, such as

aircraft and satellites," Mr Made said.

The ARSC, with its headquarters in Bamako, Mali, is composed of 22 African states, and is responsible for putting into operation the ARSP which was initiated by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The ARSP is designed to promote the development of remote sensing activities, and co-ordinate such activities with a view to improving exploitation and development of natural resources and economic interest.

The ARSC aims to set up three ground receiving stations within the continent of Africa, for receiving data from all types of satellites.

Five trainer and user assistance centres should be established to train African personnel to use the data received from satellites, Mr Made listed the advantages as the development of knowledge of natural resources, the ability to monitor natural disasters and detect the possibility of their occurring and to be able to purchase data at reduced cost.

CSO: 5500/5820

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS NEW AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATIONS LAW

Paris LE MONDE in French 5, 6, 7 May 82

[5 May 82 p 14]

[Text] Deputies Specify Role of High Authority

On Monday morning 3 May, the National Assembly continued its discussion of the articles of the draft law on audiovisual communications.

After discussing Article 13 (functions of the high authority on audiovisual communications), the deputies adopted an amendment, submitted by Mr Toubon (RPR [Rally for the Republic], Paris) and modified by the special commission, which vests the high authority with "decisional powers" on articles and conditions that specify public service obligations. These decisions will be made public.

Article 14 provides that the high authority "will issue authorizations relating to local services providing radio-broadcast audio via microwave facilities and radio-television broadcasts via cable facilities." This article transfers to the high authority the functions formerly performed by the state under the Law of 9 November 1981. Local private radio authorizations were actually being issued by the frequency allocation commission.

The Assembly voted down several amendments introduced by the opposition designed to enlarge the province of the high authority, particularly as regards the drawing up of specifications, the frequency allocation plan and authorizations, and authorizations relative jointly to radio and television broadcast services.

Article 15 provides for intervention by the high authority in accordance with a reconciliation procedure in certain cases of conflict (having to do with "freedom of conscience and creativeness") between personnel of the national programming companies and their employers (except for journalists, who come under labor laws that are specific to them), and in accordance with procedural requirements to be decreed by the Council of State.

Mr Fillioud, minister of communications, stated that the high authority "would endeavor to settle conflicts between the parties before such conflicts reached the stage of having to be decided by the courts. Under no circumstances," he added, "does this imply juridical power on the part of the high authority."

The Assembly passed a specific amendment by the commission stipulating that the recourse to conciliation through the high authority will be optional.

Article 16 confers upon the high authority the mission of overseeing compliance with "the fundamental principles governing the content of advertising material." It deals with advertising morals and ethics. The Assembly adopted an amendment by the commission specifying that the high authority "shall take the necessary steps by way of recommendations defining advertising guidelines."

Article 17 lays down the procedures for intervention by the high authority with regard to the coordination of programs and compliance with terms and conditions. Mr. Fillioud emphasized that the television viewers have clearly indicated they do not want to see a competitive system established among channels and favor the system of coordination of programs.

The commission introduced an amendment proposing new wording for Article 17 containing the following stipulations: The high authority "shall define by way of recommendations the norms" applicable to the coordination of programs. These recommendations shall be made public. "In case of serious or repeated failures by a national company to comply with its recommendations, the high authority may enjoin the president of that company, by a decision based on the evidence of reason, to take the necessary steps, within a period of time to be stipulated by the authority, to bring such failure(s) to a halt." Lastly, the authority will address each year to the president of the Republic a public report on the implementation of its recommendations and terms and conditions, and "on the quality of programs." The authority may also submit individual reports on failures to comply with its recommendations. The Assembly rejected several sub-amendments by the opposition designed specifically to reduce the role of the high authority as regards the stipulation of norms and to eliminate its power of injunction.

Article 20 specifies the method of appointment, the duration of the term of office and the replacement of members of the high authority. The latter will consist of nine members whose term of office shall be 9 years and shall be non-renewable. It will be extended by thirds every 3 years. Its members shall be designated by decree of the president of the Republic, three of them being designated by the president himself, three by the president of the National Assembly and three by the president of the Senate. Their appointments cannot be revoked. The chairperson of the high authority shall be designated by the president of the Republic. "The chairperson shall cast the deciding vote in cases of ties." Members of the high authority shall not be "kept in office beyond the age of 70."

The minister of communications emphasized that, no matter what other solution might have been adopted for the appointment of this authority, it would have been criticized. For this reason, he added, the government chose the method of appointment of the Constitutional Council.

The deputies then defeated several amendments by the RPR, UDF [French Democratic Union] and communist groups designed to modify the method of appointment of the

high authority. Essentially, these various proposed amendments would have had to consist of, particularly, magistrates or of members of the National Audiovisual Council.

The Assembly then proceeded to pass an amendment by the government providing that members of the high authority shall not be "appointed beyond the age of 65." Lastly, the deputies adopted an amendment by the commission providing that members chosen to fill temporary vacancies may be appointed as full members of the high authority "if they have deputized in these functions for less than 3 years."

Article 24, according to the original wording of the government's bill, stipulated that the decisions of the high authority would be "notified to the government. They shall become operative at the end of 15 days from the date of notification, within which time the government may request a second deliberation." Mr d'Aubert pointed out that through the second-deliberation procedure the high authority "will be completely in the hands of the government."

Mr Schreiner explained that the time period of the second deliberation was intended to enable the high authority "to discuss [its decisions] appropriately" with the government, to "take into consideration new elements either of information or of views." Mr Fillioud justified the government's position invoking the possibility "of normative decisions that could bring into question a number of existing regulatory provisions." The minister of communications pointed out that should the high authority, with the benefit of the second deliberation, confirm its initial decision, that decision would become operative. The Assembly adopted an amendment by the commission that stipulates: "The acts, decisions and recommendations rendered by the high authority under Articles 13 (its powers), 14 (authorizations in regard to local radio broadcast services), 16 (advertisements) and 17 (coordination of programs) of the present law shall be notified to the government."

The deputies examined a second amendment by the commission worded as follows: "They shall become operative at the end of 24 hours following their notification to the interested parties. However, the decisions covered by Articles 13, paragraph 2 (right to compel insertion of a further answer to communications from the government, rules relative to election campaigns and to political communists, right to reply via the same public medium) and 17, item 3 (power of injunction by the high authority with respect to the presidents of national companies regarding the coordination of programs) shall not be operative until the end of a period of 15 days following their notification to the government, during which period the government may request a second deliberation." This amendment was modified, however, at the government's initiative: The second-deliberation procedure shall be applicable only to the decisions covered by Articles 14 (see above) and 17, item 1 (definition of the norms enabling coordination of programs). The commission's two amendments, thus modified, were substituted for the initial wording of Article 14.

Article 25 institutes the National Council of Audiovisual Communication. It is an advisory body on all audiovisual communications activities and cannot, according to amendments by the commission, intervene in the approval and conciliation

procedures but can be consulted by the government. On the other hand, it must be consulted by the high authority prior to the laying down of the rules and regulations cited above with respect to Articles 13 and 17. "It can also concern itself with respect to all matters having to do with the present law." It shall elect a chairperson who shall represent it in dealing with the high authority. And it shall designate "certain of the members" of the boards of directors of the radio and television broadcast bodies.

Mr Vivien expressed the view that this Council is "a lollipop being given to the unions." At the initiative of Mr Toubon, it was stipulated that the National Council "may render opinions on the quality of programs being broadcast by the national program companies." "As if," remarked Mr Hage (PC [Communist Party], Nord), "the quality of programs were an objective thing!"

Article 25 was passed by a vote of 282 to 1 (only the socialist group voted for) [as published].

Article 26 stipulates the composition of the Council, which will consist of 49 members appointed for 3 years. Mr Bourg-Broc (RPR, Marne) cited the absence of representative of the written press and of the major religious institutions, and Mr d'Aubert that of representatives of the TV viewers associations. Mr Hage (PC, Var) expressed his disagreement with the composition as drafted and specifically his fears of "intrusion by the representatives of private enterprise." "Indeed!," remarked Mr d'Aubert. "So you can then appoint all the comrades you want!"

By a vote of 283 to 44, the Assembly repulsed an amendment by the communist group proposing that the Council include 30 members representing Parliament, the public and users, and 30 members representing the radio and television arts and crafts. Citing the number of articles the communist group had not voted on. Mr d'Aubert expressed his astonishment that the communist ministers in the government could have given their agreement to the government text.

[6 May 82 p 10]

[Text] Air Time To Be Accorded to Labor Organizations on Nationwide Basis

[Introductory commentary by Laurent Zecchini] Article by article, the audiovisual communications reform is slowly taking on a consistency on the whole. Three things are manifest: On the positive side, the lawmakers are fulfilling their role; fortunately, there is quite a distance between the text introduced by the government and the provisions being adopted by the deputies; logically, the communist group should not approve the bill submitted by Mr Fillioud when it comes to the final vote.

But the political logic of a majority is not always a plain and simple logic.

The creation of the high authority, the missions imparted to it, the genuine intent of the executive to ensure the independence of television from the political authorities: An impressive array of ambitious, liberal intentions! However, there is Article 24, which was adopted Monday by the deputies and is somewhat of a cold shower: "Notification" to the government, second deliberation of decisions by the high authority, and the initial wording of the government's bill give rise to some fears. What is in fact the authority of the high authority? The proposals by the socialist group offer a small measure of assuagement. Nevertheless: In several domains, the government will have the possibility of persuading the high authority to reverse its decisions. The purpose to be served, generally speaking, by a second-deliberation period is obvious: "I will make them an offer they cannot refuse..."

On most of the articles, the communist group did not take an unseemly position: "We consider the bill unresponsive to our concerns." The private sector, the communist deputies argued, will take advantage of the loopholes in the wording to lay siege to audiovisual communications. Basically, it holds, the PC is the sole uncompromising defender of the public sector. The sworn enemy of freedom of the airwaves, the opposition counters. Mr d'Aubert and Mr Madelin (UDF) feign astonishment: By what miracle can the communist ministers have given their approval to the government bill!

So, the labor organizations will now be entitled to TV time on the air. But what an imbroglio it has taken to bring about this result! Seeing the actors' agitated gestures during the suspension of proceedings that resulted from the introduction of this amendment by the communist group, was like watching a silent movie... The commission's rapporteur, the socialists, are against it! Mr Fillioud rises: The government is for it! Explanations, negotiations: The government introduces a restatement of the communist group's amendment as its own; the communists withdraw their own. Elementary...

Mr d'Aubert exults: "At last we see the mortgage granted by the government to the communist group in exchange for the latter's vote in favor of the bill!" Mr d'Aubert is not much of a diplomat. Especially since his premise would seemingly be untenable.

National Audiovisual Communications Council

The deputies have resumed their examination of Article 26 (composition of the National Audiovisual Communications Council). Based on the results of the vote, the Council's composition is as follows: "Seven delegates from the regional and territorial audiovisual communications committees, at least one of which shall be from an overseas territory, who will be appointed by the chairmen of their

respective committees at a special joint meeting of the committees held for that purpose; seven representatives of cultural and popular educational associations; seven representatives of family-life and social-welfare associations and consumer associations; seven representatives of the permanently and intermittently employed workers in the audiovisual sector; seven representatives, managers and journalists, of communications enterprises, to be appointed through representative professional organizations, at least three of which shall be representatives of the written press; seven leading figures in the cultural and scientific worlds at least one of whom shall be from an overseas territory; seven representatives of the major spiritual and philosophical movements."

Article 26 provides that membership in the council is incompatible with the holding of administrative office in an audiovisual communications public service organization.

Mr Fillioud, minister of communications, stated that the members of the council, like those of the regional committees, will not be remunerated. With the addition by the government of the seven representatives of the spiritual and philosophical movements, the total number of council members was increased from 49 to 56.

Regional Committees

Article 27 creates in every region, department and overseas territory, and in the Mayotte collectivity, a regional audiovisual communications committee.

Article 28 defines the role of the regional committees. Each committee will make known its "views" concerning the "developmental phases" of regional audiovisual programming, the objectives and resources for the "conservation and exploitation of regional audiovisual assets," and "ways and means of encouraging social communication and promoting regional identity, with respect to the region's different cultural, spiritual, philosophical and linguistic components."

Mr Godfrain (RPR [Rally for the Republic], Aveyron) raised the possibility of regional committees entering into agreements with foreign countries, and expressed concern regarding the risk of a "rupturing of national unity." Mr d'Aubert (UDF [French Democratic Union], Mayenne), for his part, questioned: "Can one talk of decentralization when it is actually in Paris, in the offices of RADIO-FRANCE, that the local radio programs funded by FRANCE-INTER will be "concocted"?"

Article 29 stipulates the composition of the regional committees. Mr Guichard (RPR, Loire-Atlantique) cited the absence of elected officials from these committees and pointed out that the induced operating expenses are to be charged to the regional budgets. Mr d'Aubert took a similar position, indicating that according to the president of RADIO-FRANCE the cost of regional committees will come to about 10 million francs.

Mr Fillioud replied that, "conforming to a rule that is just as valid at the regional as it is at the national level," the government does not favor representation of elected officials in the regional committees.

The commission proposed a regional committee composition modeled on that of the National Council, providing, however, that a decree by the Council of State would stipulate the number of their members, the rules governing their appointment, and the rules and regulations governing their operation.

Article 29 was adopted in its wording by the commission. The communist group did not take part in the voting either on the funding or on Article 29 as a whole.

The Radio and Television Public Service.

The deputies addressed Title III of the bill, which deals with the different organizations that come under the radio and television public service. Mr d'Aubert affirmed: "The public service is being placed under the oversight of the communists, who will not tolerate any opening toward broader freedom."

The Assembly passed an amendment by the government providing under Article 30 that for each organization "its public service obligations shall be defined in a set of specifications that will include permanent provisions laid down by decree and annual provisions laid down by ministerial order. This set of specifications shall stipulate in particular the general orientations of programming policies and the individual missions of each organization."

Political and Labor Union Broadcasts

Article 31 lays down the rules governing the broadcast of governmental interventions and communications, and broadcasts relating to election campaigns. After throwing out an amendment by the RPR group designed to put reports submitted by the Council of Ministers in the same category as government statements (which would subject them to the right of reply through the public media and would make the scheduling of these reports obligatory), the Assembly adopted an amendment by the commission and by Messrs Toubon and Vivien (RPR, Val-de-Marne) providing that in the broadcasting of election campaigns "modern audiovisual techniques may be used in accordance with regulations to be stipulated by decree of the Council of State." This provision puts an end to the present form of television electioneering broadcasts, which has heretofore compelled candidates to conform to extremely rigid rules of presentation.

At the initiative of Messrs Vivien and Toubon, the deputies adopted an amendment modified by the government that stipulates: "Equal on-the-air broadcast time shall be accorded to parliamentary groups of the majority and to those of the opposition, as well as to those political formations represented by a group in the National Assembly."

Mr Niles (PS [Socialist Party], Seine-Saint-Denis) next introduced an amendment providing for the according of on-the-air time "to nationally representative labor organizations" as well. The rapporteur stated that the commission was opposed to this provision, especially since labor organizations are already entitled to air time under Article 13 of the bill. Mr Fillioud, however, stated his agreement with the communist group's amendment. At this point, Mr d'Aubert

exclaimed "There we have it at last! The pledge given by the government to the communist group in exchange for its vote in favor of the bill!" "An end to the chicanery!" Mr Toubon added.

Following a suspension of the session requested by the UDF group, Mr Fillioud introduced an amendment worded as follows: "On-the-air broadcast time shall be accorded to nationally representative labor organizations in accordance with regulations to be stipulated by the high authority."

Mr Niles then withdrew his amendment. The minister of communications stated that the major labor organizations would be granted equal time on the air. Messrs Toubon and Haby (UDF, Haut-Rhin) deplored the fact that professional organizations were not being included, as were not the unions whose members are not salaried (merchants, artisans, farmers). The government's amendment was adopted.

Public Broadcasting Establishment

Mr Natiez (PS, Loire-Atlantique) stated that the socialist group favored the commission's amendment providing for this Establishment. TDF would be charged with the "broadcasting of programs in France and to the outside world, by all telecommunications facilities and methods," and that its function with respect to "the design, installation, operation and maintenance of the audiovisual communications distribution network" is solely one of participation.

Mr Madelin stated that the jamming of local radio stations by the TDF is "illegal" and constitutes "assault." Mr Mexandeau, minister of PTT, replied: "Those who do not submit to the law must be brought into line with the law."

Article 32 also provides that the Public Establishment "shall draw up a frequency allocation plan," and "shall monitor frequency usage and protect the reception of signals."

The assembly threw out several amendments by the UDF group designed to indicate that TDF will merely assist the high authority in the drawing up of the frequency allocation plan, and to exclude from that organization's functions all recourse to intentional jamming. (This amendment was thrown out by a vote of 283 to 153, with the communist group abstaining.)

Article 32 was then passed as worded by the commission.

Lastly, the Assembly adopted Article 33, which stipulates the composition of the board of directors of the Public Broadcasting Establishment. It threw out several amendments submitted by the RPR, UDF and communist groups designed to modify the composition of the board, which consists of 16 members appointed by decree for 3 years. At the commission's initiative, the Assembly eliminated the high authority's option of appointing representatives of the personnel.

[7 May 82 p 11]

[Article by Laurent Zecchini and P. V.: "Creation of Independent Radio and Television Company for Overseas Territories"]

[Text] [Introductory commentary by Laurent Zecchini]:

The Public Broadcasting Establishment (formerly TDF), National Radio Broadcasting Company (formerly Radio-France), National Programming Companies (TF1 and Antenna 2), National Company for Regional Programming (FR 3), National Radio and Television Company for Overseas Departments and Territories, National Company for the Production of Audiovisual Documents and the Rendering of Services (formerly SFP)... It took 10 and 1/2 hours of debate on Wednesday 5 May to reform and form the principal radio and television broadcasting organizations.

Once again, the public service was the focal point of the debate. The text adopted opens the way for the government to create, by decree, other national program companies, particularly in view of the possibilities being opened up by direct-TV satellites and by the use of the old 819-line black-and-white network. Hostile toward an "elastic public sector" of the nature advocated by Mr Toubon, The RPR [Rally for the Republic] and the UDF [French Democratic Union] would have liked to limit the number of these companies to two. In the UDF's view, the public sector should be able to coexist with an "independent sector," that is, a private sector by way of contractual agreements. Mr Fillioud, minister of communications, took a hostile stand against these proposals as well as against that of the communist group, which sought to form a single national company on the model of the former Office of French Broadcasting and Television.

On Wednesday 5 May, the National Assembly continued its discussion of the articles of the audiovisual communications bill.

Article 34 deals with the funding of the Public Broadcasting Establishment. The bill provides that this funding shall come "mainly" from payment by the national and regional program companies "for the services rendered, and from the allocation of a portion of the tax revenues assigned to the public service."

Mr Madelin (UDF, Ille-et-Vilaine) alluded to the possibility of a tax on video tape recorders. Mr Fillioud pointed out the inadvisability of freezing the situation, in case the Parliament might decide to increase the funds allocated to the public service.

National Broadcasting and Television Companies

Article 35 creates, by decree, a National Audio Broadcasting Company. Organized as a private corporation, wholly publicly capitalized, it is a successor to the company instituted by the law of 1974, namely, Radio-France. The new company will no longer be responsible for international radio broadcasting activities; this responsibility is transferred to a specific company (Article 56). From now on, the National Company will take part by way of the regional radio broadcast companies (Article 48), which are its subsidiaries, in the decentralization of the public radio broadcasting service. It will now be responsible for the management of the Orchestre National de France and the Nouvel Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio-France.

Mr Lauriol (RPR, Paris) expressed satisfaction that French music "represents 72 percent of the on-the-air time devoted by France-Inter to music as a whole." The deputy called upon the minister of communications "for a broader diversification of the spectrum of foreign music being broadcast, since," he added, "the portion taken up by American music on peripheral stations exacerbates even more the phenomenon of our country's national alienation and cultural amputation."

Mr Fillioud affirmed he was largely in agreement with Mr Lauriol, but stressed that promotion of French music is one of the missions of the Public Service organization.

Pointing out that, according to Mrs Cotta, president and general manager of Radio-France, a local radio station costs 7.5 million francs, Mr Toubon questioned whether the government will have the means to finance the different broadcast organizations.

The Assembly next passed an amendment by the government stipulating that the National Company shall be responsible for the development of Radio-France's choirs and musical mastership. Mr Fillioud added that should Radio-France in the future create other orchestras, "as it has a perfect right to do, it shall be responsible for developing them."

Article 35 also provides for the opening of a special account in the National Company's accounts, for the funding of the regional audio broadcasting companies.

Article 36 deals with the creation--by decree--of national programming companies (presently TF 1 and Antenne 2). Mr Natiez (PS [Socialist Party], Loire-Atlantique) pointed out that the UDF group was seeking to promote the development of private television companies, "even though it be to the detriment of our national cultural heritage."

With this article, observed Mr Vivien (RPR, Val-de-Marne), "you give yourselves the power to create as many national companies as you may like or as the Socialist Party imposes on you." Mr Toubon expressed his opposition to "a variable-geometry, to an elastic, public sector," like the one the bill, in his opinion, was proposing. Mr d'Aubert expressed preference for the coexistence of an "independent sector contractually linked to the public authority."

Mr Hermier (PC [Communist Party], Bouches-du-Rhone), for his part, asserted: "We need a sector that is inspired, forceful and open to talent, and that will avoid the outpourings of advertising and the degradation of programs that for the most part are ascribable to foreign influences." The rejection of "Hersant TV," he added, "does not make of us shivery old fogies obsessed with an anachronic monopoly." Mr Fillioud argued the need to be able to create, by decree, new companies "to adapt structures to the needs of the times; for example, to the entry into service of direct-TV satellites."

By 284 votes to 44 (the opposition having abstained), the Assembly threw out an amendment by the communist group providing for a single national company "to manage the services common to all the national television channels and to coordinate their programming." This company would have responsibility for the conception, the programming and the production of broadcasts as well as for the production of works and of audiovisual documents. It would consist of at least two channels and would not be limited as regards the creation of new television channels.

Article 36 provides for the broadcast of programs throughout "the metropolitan territory." Mr Debre (RPR, la Reunion) defended at length an amendment designed to extend the coverage of these broadcasts to overseas departments, by substituting for the initial wording the mention of "national territory." With the government's agreement, Mr Debre's amendment was adopted, after Mr Fillioud recalled that the present overseas delegation will become a company in its own right, capable of taking its own decisions and having its own independent budget.

The deputies next threw out two amendments by the UDF group designed to institute, on the one hand, an "evolutive public channel," and, on the other, a channel with its priority centered on culture, education and information."

Article 36 was then adopted, with the communist group abstaining. The deputies adopted Article 37, which stipulates the composition of the board of directors of each of the national programming companies.

Following Article 37, Mr Madelin argued in favor of an amendment to create a pay movie channel, using the 819-line black-and-white network, for interested subscribers. Mr Fillioud replied that the law will authorize that kind of initiative. "The government is studying that possibility," he added. The amendment was rejected.

With regard to Article 38, which creates a National Company for Regional Programming, Mr Vivien cited the "fuzziness" of its wording, then argued for the FR 3 company, "an excellent vehicle for regional expression." Mr Toubon, for his part, questioned the "overlapping" between programs broadcast by the National Company for Regional Programming and those furnished by the regional companies. Mr Madelin argued "for real regional television companies, not remotely controlled from Paris but mirroring the region, open to local interests, particularly those of the written press."

According to Mr Schreiner: "The originality of this company's mission lies in the distinction that is made between the function of conceiving programs and that of programming itself."

The National Assembly adopted Mr Schreiner's proposal that the company be created by decree.

Article 39 creates a National Radio and Television Company for Overseas Departments and Territories, responsible for providing programs to the DOM-TOM [Overseas Departments-Overseas Territories] based either on the broadcasts by the other national companies or on specific productions.

Mr d'Aubert argued against "the risks of a cultural ghetto" the DOM-TOM's would run under this article.

Mr Moutoussamy (allied to the PC, Guadeloupe) expressed satisfaction with the government's decentralist intent but assailed the "reactionary" attempt by the special commission, which, in his opinion, had sought "to purely and simply maintain a centralized relationship" by creating the company for overseas programming as a "subsidiary" of Radio-France and FR 3. Opposing this view, Mr Esdras (allied to the UDF, Guadeloupe) characterized the commission's proposal as "a remarkable improvement" to the bill.

Article 41 creates a National Company for the Production of Audiovisual Documents and Rendition of Services.

As successor to the SFP [French Production Company]--a company organized as a private corporation--the National Production Company will be integrated into the public service. It will operate under a set of specifications.

The Production Company will operate "specifically for the account" of programming companies. The potential shareholders are the state, other public corporate entities, national companies and mixed-economy companies. As regards the capital distribution, the bill provides for majority participation by the state and obligatory participation by the television companies. Mr Toubon advocated, in this regard, "breaking the ties" that link the production companies and the programming companies. The Paris deputy expressed concern that the new company might find itself "in an extraterritorial situation with respect to the economic situation." "We do not want it to be hanging by the parachute formed by the obligatory participation of the national television companies," he added.

Article 42, in Mr Fillioud's opinion, embodies "a considerable stake." "In view of the rate of multiplication of the various media," he added, "if we do not succeed in suitably updating our audiovisual production apparatus, we shall not be able to resist an invasion by foreign products."

"The 1974 law organized the bankruptcy and the deficit of the SFP," the minister argued, citing some figures: Its 1981 fiscal year deficit was 53 million francs, of which 33 million francs were attributable to financing expenses owing to the

lack of working capital. At the end of last year, the latter amounted to 50 million francs, Mr Fillioud indicated, whereas the requirement had been estimated at 100 million francs. "The deficit was set up by the very conditions under which this company was created," he said. The deficit for the first half of 1981 was 37.5 million francs, Mr Fillioud continued, while that for the second half was 16.3 million.

The Assembly adopted an amendment by the government providing that services shall also be rendered to the regional programming companies.

The session ended at 3:05 [local time], with the debate scheduled to be resumed Thursday 6 May.

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AUDIOVISUAL LAW DEBATE CONTINUES, DECENTRALIZATION PLAYS ROLE

Regional Broadcast Companies Created

Paris LE MONDE in French 8 May 82 p 10

[Article by L.Z. and P.V.: "The Audiovisual Reform in the National Assembly-- The Regional Radio and Television Companies Will Gradually Have the Means for Ensuring Their Independence in Programming"]

[Text] On Thursday 6 May, the National Assembly continued discussion of the articles of the draft bill on audiovisual communication.

Article 44 provides for the national radio and television broadcasting companies to produce audiovisual works or documents in the conditions fixed by their contract specifications. They will be able to cede or concede to third parties the rights that they possess under them. Mr Fillioud, minister of communication, stresses that the government intends to strengthen the means of the National Production Company (formerly the SFP), which, according to him, should receive "privileged treatment."

He adds, though, that "this does not in any way mean the cessation of all competition, still less the granting of a monopoly. The private production sector must subsist," he stresses. "Normal contractual relations" will have to be established between the production company and the national companies.

In the view of the opposition, this company will necessarily have a deficit because of its status. The UDF is in favor of the existence of a private pole and a public pole of production and wants to limit the production activity of the national program companies. The Assembly is rejecting in particular an RPR amendment aimed, on the one hand, at setting production quotas for the national companies, and on the other, at establishing a bidding procedure for the production companies of the public sector or the private sector. Mr Fillioud has declared his opposition to this proposal. "This proves," states Mr Aubert (UDF, Mayenne), "that you think that the SFP will never be competitive."

National Institute of Audiovisual Communication

Article 45 enacts the creation of the National Institute of Audiovisual Communication (INCA), which succeeds the INA. The INCA, a public establishment of

the state of an industrial and commercial character, endowed with administrative and financial autonomy, retains three of the four missions carried out by its predecessor: conservation and exploitation of the archives of the national companies (as well as the marketing of those that belong to it), personnel training, and research. The fourth mission, which consisted in providing for international cultural distribution, is assigned to an autonomous company (Article 56).

Regional Companies

Article 48 provides that a number of regional radio broadcasting companies will be created under conditions set by decree. According to a Socialist-group amendment, these companies are to manage, within the territorial compass of a region, a number of local stations responsible for conceiving and programming radio-broadcast public-service works or documents. In addition, they may provide for production and programming of broadcasts of a regional character, in collaboration with the local stations. The regional companies, like the national companies, will be able to cede or concede to third parties the rights that they possess.

Mr d'Aubert considers that the audiovisual decentralization desired by the government is "a real political mystification." The UDF deputy stresses that Radio-France and FR 3 hold most of the capital of the regional radio and television stations; that is, the central state does, through them. On the other hand, he denounces the inequality of treatment, notably in financial matters, as between local public radio stations and local private radio stations. The latter, he notes, have only advertising to live on, and it is prohibited to them. Mr Bourg-Broc (RPR, Marne) denounces an "unfair patterning at the local level," as well as the "total fuzziness" as between the national and regional companies and the local stations.

Mr Hage (PCF, Nord) defends an amendment which, according to him, would establish a "true decentralization on the basis of the regional companies." They would be grouped in "a federative structure," both for metropolitan France and overseas. Replying to the opposition with regard to the competition between public and private radio stations, Mr Fillioud confirms that the government's choice is deliberately to favor the former.

The deputies then rejected an amendment by the UDF group that would have eliminated Article 48, after Mr d'Aubert had argued for this position by denouncing the absence of credits for financing the local stations and criticizing what he called "radio stations that are subsidiaries of Radio-France." The RPR joined with this position. Mr Murette (RPR, Paris), "dismayed" at the "anything-goes spending," declared: "This is going to cost an arm and a leg!" For the government, he added, the choice will be either to increase the fees or to "puncture" the local journals' advertising.

The deputies next defeated, by a vote of 284 to 44 (UDF against PCF), the Communist group's amendment, then an amendment by the UDF group, aimed at specifying that the local stations may be established only if there are no local private radio stations. "Freedom of audiovisual communication," Mr Madelin (UDF,

Ille-et-Vilaine) stated, "is as revolutionary today as freedom of the press was in the 19th century." Mr Marette declared that each local station "will cost the taxpayers 500 million centimes per year." The Assembly adopted the Socialist group's amendment and defeated a UDF-group amendment whereby the regional companies would have had to devote 90 percent of their broadcasting time to programs of local origin. Without stating the figure, Mr Schreiner (PS, Yvelines), special-committee rapporteur, declared that this provision will be written into the contract specifications.

Regional Television Programs

According to the Socialist group's proposals, Article 49 provides, within the territorial compass of one or more regions, for the creation, in 4 years, of 12 regional television companies. The national program company "shall put into effect gradually, over 4 years, the operational and investment means enabling these companies to conceive and produce programs broadcast daily and to ensure their programming autonomy." The creation of other companies will be authorized by decree.

Mr d'Aubert spoke of "cultural discrimination," and Mr Aubert (RPR, Alpes-Maritimes) stressed: "You are creating a hierarchy in the regions." Mr Fillioud replied that the government "has not created anything," in view of the fact that 11 regional television administrations, plus Corsica, that come under FR 3, are presently in existence. The objective, he added, is to have a television company functioning in each region "as soon as possible."

The Assembly adopted Article 50, which provides for the creation by decree of regional or territorial radio and television companies in the overseas regions and territories. The article is written in such a way as to exclude from the law's sphere of application Mayotte, which has the status of a territorial collectivity, and Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, which has the status of an overseas department.

Article 51 provides that each regional or territorial company becomes a subsidiary of the national program company, which, on the national level, is responsible for the same activity. Each of the national program companies holds, respectively, a majority of the capital of the regional companies. On the other hand, it is specified that the territorial collectivities and their public establishments are authorized to participate in the capital of these companies.

Article 53 provides for the creation of a national company responsible for radio broadcasting to foreign countries. It thus sets up Radio-France Internationale (RFI) as an autonomous company of Radio-France, whereas at present it is a simple department of that company. Mr Fillioud won passage on an amendment to his text whereby the company responsible for broadcasting to foreign countries is a "subsidiary" of the national program company (Radio-France). It is responsible "for providing for the conception and programming" of broadcasts aimed at foreign countries, as well as "for producing radio-broadcast works and documents intended for international distribution within the framework of the obligations defined by its contract specifications and in application of conventions made between it and the state."

Article 54 specifies that the capital of this company is entirely public; in effect, the only two stockholders are the state and the national radio-broadcasting company.

Finally, the Assembly adopted a special-committee amendment that specifies that the latter holds the majority of the capital.

Journalists', Personnel Rights

Paris LE MONDE in French 12 May 82 p 9

[Article by Laurent Zecchini: "The Audiovisual Reform in the National Assembly --A Ceiling Will Not Be Put on Advertising--A 'Minimum Service' Assured in Case of Strike"]

[Text] Like everyone else, the Communist group had its own idea about the ontology of radio and television journalists and pluralism. A simple and commonsensical idea: journalists have to "respect the truth." And then, doubtlessly from a concern to put an end to the partisan character of certain political commentaries, the Communist deputies recommend, in order to guarantee the public-service mission, respect for a "pluralist composition of the staffs." What fine television we would have had! RPR, UDF, Socialist and Communist journalists in equal numbers. The truth would surely have been respected: "And now, dear viewers, our RPR journalist has the floor," "our news continues with our Communist journalist," etc.

This was not a good idea. So much the worse. Truth is out of the picture. The Assembly has contented itself with providing a criterion that is a bit old hat but that persists: the professional capacities of those concerned. That will be satisfactory.

The audiovisual-communication bill is dragging on, and the protagonists are growing tired and enervated. Living in isolation, they do not have the time to inform themselves about what is happening outside. Such is the case with Mr Fillioud. The minister of communication therefore probably did not know that during a trip to Limousin, the president of the republic pleaded in favor of a calming of the public debate, for tolerance. And since he did not know this, Mr Fillioud declared to the opposition: "You will have to take cover behind your benches!" He was referring to the right to strike. True, as regards respect for the independence of the press, the left has no lessons to learn from the present opposition. The hundreds of firings in the ORTF [Office of French Broadcasting and Television] in 1974 should inspire more restraint in those who inspired them or were accomplices. But restraint is not Mr Fillioud's strong point. The idea of the right to strike upheld by Mr Vivien (RPR) is well-known. No comment on it is necessary. If one had to choose, derision or humor would be better than intolerance.

There will therefore be a "minimum service" and not "continuity" of programming. There will no longer be a ceiling on advertising, and all the program companies will be able to benefit from it. The proceeds from the fees will be distributed, among the television chains in particular, without reference to

audience or quality. Such are the concrete decisions. The rest, the opposition's certainties about the government and the left's desire to control news, involving a bill that has not even been passed--all that is a matter of judging intentions. "Not you and not that!" added Mr Fillioud. He is not wrong, if one reflects on the building-up of a certain press empire.

The problem for the left is to break away from an intangible rule: the government, no matter what it might be, considers that television is too important a matter to be left to the journalists alone.

On Monday 10 May, the National Assembly continued with discussion of the articles of the draft bill on audiovisual communication.

The User Fees

Article 60, in its initial form, provided that each year, on the occasion of the passage of the finance act, the Parliament would authorize the collection "of the taxes called fees for right of use, based on television-reception sets." Mr Marette (RPR, Paris) is concerned about possible eventual taxes on cassettes and video tape recorders. In his view, the fees should be "entirely budgetized," thus enabling Parliament "not only to vote the receipts but also to control the expenditures."

Mr Madelin (UDF, Ille-et-Vilaine) thoroughly agrees with this: "You are furnishing to the government the discretionary power which the Socialists and the Communists used to denounce," he stated. Mr Fillioud, minister of communication, said that there was no change as regards the collection and distribution of the fee proceeds. He added that as the result of a Constitutional Council decision of 30 December 1980, the parafiscal character of the fee is established.

Article 61 provides that the proceeds expected from the fees and from advertising be distributed annually among the public-service organisms by the prime minister or the delegated minister. Mr Fillioud explained that by collecting all of the receipts into a single mass, the advertisers, on the one hand, are kept from exerting pressure on the networks authorized to broadcast advertising, and on the other hand, the networks that do not have access to it are not penalized.

After rejecting an amendment, supported by Mr Madelin, that would have kept the distribution of the proceeds from advertising out of the hands of the prime minister, the Assembly rejected several opposition amendments whereby the distribution would have been done "on the proposal" of the high authority or "by" it. The deputies next adopted a committee amendment stipulating that the distribution will be done by the prime minister "after the opinion of the high authority" is given.

Article 61 also provides for allocation of an amount of resources to each organism on the basis of its draft budget, the evolution of its activity and of its own resources, as well as its public-service obligations. The Assembly rejected two amendments by the UDF group whereby, on the one hand, the notion of

"quality of the programs" would have been added to these criteria, and on the other hand, the criterion of audience would have been introduced.

Speaking of "misappropriation of the television viewers' money," Mr Madelin proposed that the following companies be excluded from distribution of the proceeds of the fees: TSF [expansion unknown], the Societe de Production (formerly the SFP), and the Societe de Radiodiffusion et de Distribution Internationale (formerly the RFI), a company for marketing audiovisual programs. The Assembly opposed this suggestion and proceeded to pass Articles 62 and 63, which relate to Parliamentary approval of the distribution of the fees. Apart from the companies mentioned by Mr Madelin, the fee proceeds will go to Radio-France, to the program companies (TF-1, Antenne 2 and FR 3), to the company for overseas radio and television broadcasting, and to the INCA (audiovisual archives).

Advertising

Article 64 provides that the rules relating to advertising broadcasts be fixed by the contract specifications (the latter must specify the maximum proportion of advertising that may come from the same advertiser). The draft bill does not specify any limit on recourse to advertising financing (the law of 1974 set a ceiling of 25 percent on the total resources of public-service organisms that may come from advertising), and the consequence of this is that all the program companies will be able to benefit from advertising resources. In addition, the draft law assigns a control responsibility to the French Advertising Administration (RFP).

Mr Toubon said he was convinced that these provisions "are going to have some very serious consequences for the written press." He considers that there is only one monopoly in the written press, that of the Syndicat du Livre. "And that one," he added, "is particularly scandalous!"

Mr Fillioud declared: "The concentration of the press organs that was brought about in an indifferent manner, even with the encouragement of the public authorities, does not authorize the right to preach to us in this area!" Speaking of the 25-percent ceiling on advertising receipts, the minister of communication assured the Assembly that: "It is not the government's intention to increase this volume considerably, either at the end of the year or in the years following. It will be up to the state, the government and the Parliament to determine it each year." Mr Fillioud estimates that without this ceiling, an additional Fr 1 billion in receipts could have been taken in. "Practically none of that money," he added, "came back to the other basic media--to the regional press in particular. There is therefore a potential market available to the public service, one which the government is determined to take advantage of only with discernment, with a concern to maintain the necessary balances." Mr Madelin retorted: "You are in the process of setting up, patiently, a written-press public service, on welfare, as it were, and dependent on the good will of the state."

The Assembly next rejected amendments by the RPR group that would have provided for gradualness in the insertion of advertising into the programs and would have reestablished the ceiling at 25 percent.

Rights of Personnel and of Journalists

On the initiative of the committee and the Communist group, the Assembly passed an additional article, modified by the government, that provides as follows: "The rights of the personnel and the journalists of the public-service organisms in radio and television broadcasting may not be dependent on trade-union and political opinions, beliefs or memberships. Recruiting, appointment, promotion and changes of assignment shall be done with no conditions other than the professional capacities required and respect for public service that is open to all."

The deputies rejected in particular a Communist-group amendment aimed at establishing rules of ethics for the journalists in radio and television broadcasting.

Article 68, modified by several amendments, provides that the permanent personnel and the intermittent personnel (that is, the artistic, technical and administrative personnel) of the public-service organisms, as well as the journalists, are governed by the provisions of the collective conventions. By a vote of 438 to 44, the Assembly defeated a Communist-group amendment providing for the working-out of a collective convention that would define in particular "new rights and guarantees equivalent to those granted by law to the wage-earning personnel of the nationalized sector."

The Assembly rejected several opposition amendments aimed at giving guarantees to the personnel. Mr Fillioud stated that the opposition was in a poor position to take up that question after the layoffs in the ORTF in 1974. After the minister of communication advised the Assembly to "dismiss it with contempt," the deputies rejected an amendment submitted by Messrs Madelin and Toubon aimed at rehiring "de jure" the personnel laid off since 10 May 1981.

On the initiative of the committee and several RPR deputies, the deputies adopted an additional article specifying that a Council of State decree will establish "the conditions in which the mobility of the personnel within the national companies can be organized, with strict guarantee of the rights gained."

Right to Strike

Article 69 (exercise of right to strike) repeats the terms of the law of 1974 exactly. Mr Madelin recalled that at the time, the left had criticized these provisions at length, but acknowledged that they did engender a certain number of abuses. Mr Vivien submitted an amendment defining exercise of the right to strike and repeating, in its provisions, the terms of the law of 26 July 1969, which resulted from a bill of which he was the author. Mr Fillioud then took the floor and declared: "All the same, you are not going to present yourselves as defenders of the right to strike. Not you and not that! You should hide behind your benches!"

The deputies defeated the opposition amendments, then passed a committee amendment written as follows: "In case of concerted cessation of work, the organization of a minimum service involving the national and regional news in particu-

lar shall be provided for by the presidents of the organisms concerned, who shall designate the categories of personnel or the agents who are to remain on duty."

Declaration and Authorization System

The deputies then took up Title IV of the bill, which involves the audiovisual-communication services subject to declaration or authorization. Article 70 defines the system applicable to those audiovisual-communication services that are characterized by remote interrogation of data bases of all kinds. The text adopted is as follows: "Every service of audiovisual communication with the public in general or with categories of the public by which each user of the proposed service himself remote-interrogates a body of written materials, sounds, images, documents or audiovisual messages of any kind, excluding cinematographic works, and receives in return only the elements requested, is subject to a prior-declaration system. On a temporary basis, however, and until a date to be fixed by decree, which shall not be later than 1 January 1986, these services shall be subject to the prior-authorization system."

The transitional period is designed to provide, before application of the prior-declaration system, the time necessary for definition of a set of regulations for audiovisual-communication companies, setting the general rules applicable to enterprises of this type and guaranteeing the rights of third parties (right of reply in particular).

Article 71 subjects to the prior-authorization system all the audiovisual-communication services that are not covered by Article 70. According to the rapporteur, these consist in particular of radio broadcasting, television broadcasting by radio waves or cable, or remote-interrogation services involving cinematographic works. The authorizations other than those granted by the high authority (local radio-broadcast services and by radiotelevision by cable [as published]) are to be issued by the state.

The debate was adjourned until Wednesday 12 May.

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PTT WORRIES ABOUT COMPETITION WITH AT&T, OTHER PRIVATE FIRMS

Paris LES ECHOS in French 11 May 82 pp 13-14

[Article by Nicole Le Guennec: "National Monopolies Confronted by Technological Evolution"]

[Text] Solidly entrenched as of yesterday no less, the telecommunications monopolies today appear highly vulnerable. The development of private multiple-service networks, direct-TV satellites...to say nothing of "American deregulation," cannot fail to have an impact on the very principle of these monopolies, which rest on a regality with no counterpart guarantee of quality of service or liability whatever toward the users.

Will they bear up against this impact? Will the public service and private services share bed and board? Whatever may be the answers to these questions, one thing is certain as of now: The victory will go to technology. The monopolies and the laws will adapt...

Has American deregulation marked out the kick-off line for a new challenge to the telecommunications monopolies? True, the situation in the United States differed somewhat from the current one in France and the other European countries.

The AT&T group exercised an overall monopoly on the telecommunications networks, the industry (only that group's equipment could be connected to the networks), and research, whereas the European, and French, PTT monopolies cover lesser spectrums.

The latter are confined essentially to operation of the networks, the marketing and putting in place of infrastructures, and a portion of the research in this sector. With regard to equipment, the PTT administration's role is limited to its certification.

In breaking up the AT&T monopoly, the American federal government had one aim: To revitalize a sector that had settled into entrenched positions (the import of telecommunications equipment had progressed notably over the past few years

(see "Transborder Flux of Data," 19 April) and to bolster the offensive capability of certain industrial groups, both nationally and internationally, with an eye especially on the well-protected European market. This market is in essence a national one.

This attack worries the French PTT. While it cannot have an immediate impact on the telecommunications equipment sector, which is protected by the monopoly that is in place, the very imbricate and budding freehand telematics market is wide open.

The monopoly, however, if resorted to in depth to protect the national industry, could be a double-edged sword. Today, all equipment connected to the public network, whether it belongs to the government or to private industry, French national or not, must be approved by the Ministry of PTT.

This rule limits to a certain extent the invasion by foreign equipment, since the Ministry may choose its suppliers. Although this control is applied to all public equipment, a large amount of private equipment sold in shops (telephone answering equipment and other gadgetry...) does not have PTT approval.

The latter represents a far from negligible segment of the market. This equipment comes mainly from Japanese industry; but tomorrow we will undoubtedly see American equipment here as well.

But should the national market be further protected by prohibiting the sale of any equipment that has not been approved? Or by discouraging foreign industry through the creation of highly specific national standards? This latter form of protection, we know, is illusory: It has never been an obstacle to Japanese industry, which, in the domain of standards, is as quick-acting as are our national industries. On the other hand, this practice would not be without some risk to our national industry: it would close export openings. Application of too highly protectionist a policy involves dangers. Apparently, however, this will not be the policy of the Ministry of PTT, which, true, is determined to play (or rather continue to play) its standards card, but from the standpoint of international standards debated in the CCITT, and to also take into account, in its approvals, the origin of fabrication of the equipment.

In effect, it is the PTT's view that the foreign offensive must be met by a competitive national industry that is equally capable of mounting an offensive at the international level. Philippe Bodin, assistant PTT ministerial staff manager, summarizes the Ministry's objectives: "To implement a policy of buying equipment that will revitalize French industry."

While for the time being this American attack, still in its early stages, has not directly unsettled the PTT, but has rather strengthened the latter's position by focusing its attention on the danger, the development of new data processing techniques, on the other hand, has already called into question a certain number of established principles.

Basis of Monopolies: Regality

The juridical base of the telecommunications monopolies as defined by the International Telecommunications Convention rests on a regality. These excerpts from articles of this Convention are illustrative: "The members... reserve the right to interrupt any private communication that may appear dangerous to the security of the state" (Art 19), and "The members... accept no liability toward the users" (Art 21). Only the minister of PTT has the power to authorize or not, or to interrupt the use of the public network, without need for any justification. This power extends not only to the public (switched) network but also to private (leased special-purpose facilities) networks. Moreover, the latter are not permitted unless the user's needs cannot be met by the public network or by the PTT's specialized networks. The authorizing of private facilities does not, however, under any conditions carry with it freedom of action.

The user must submit to a certain number of rules. First of all, these links are established only among subsidiaries of the same group, all traffic with third parties being forbidden. Those private networks, such as SWIFT (serving banking institutions) and SITA (serving the airlines), which are permitted exceptions to these rules and regulations pose problems to the various national administrations.

Furthermore, communications transiting private networks must deal exclusively with the activity for which the network authorization was granted. The resale of any telecommunications service is prohibited.

As a safeguard against any infraction, the International Convention stipulates that "the PTT's have the right to take any steps and to terminate the lease of a facility without indemnity and without prior notice..." These Draconian rules are unilateral. The administration has no liability toward the users and does not guarantee the quality of its service. Mr Lintingre, attorney, commented during a recent meeting of the IREST [Institute for Economic and Social Research in Telecommunications] that "new legislation more equitable toward the users is mandatory."

Without awaiting such new legislation, this unbalanced relationship seems already to be being called into question by the advent of value-added private networks (such as Tymnet and even local multiple service networks), which will nudge the administration into a more flexible praxis. Transpac (a public network for the transmission of packetized data) which is managed by a company organized as a private corporation under the same name (in which the state is the majority shareholder with 97 percent of the shares), has already opted for a corporate liability approach: It signs contractual agreements.

As defined by the International Telecommunications Convention of Torremolinos, the monopolies of PTT's are applicable only to telecommunications, that is, to all "transmission, emission or reception of signals, written symbols, sounds, images or information of any kind by wire, radio, electricity, optical or other electromagnetic system."

This definition makes no mention of the term "data" in its generally understood sense covering any representation of information. Some experts nevertheless deem that "the term telecommunications covers any and all types of data transmission" and even go so far as to argue that the definition should include "all transmissions on which services of all types are based, including 'interior' installations used for communications purposes" (generally excluded from the domain regulated by national laws).

Should this new definition be adopted, it would extend the PTT's "control" to data processing. The fact is that the various data processing techniques (processing of text and other materials) frequently lead to an amalgamation of the content, the processing of the information, and the containing structure, the infrastructure. It is also true that this amalgamation worries the PTT. But enlargement of its field of action because of it does not appear very likely.

The danger the PTT most dreads is direct competition that would lead to a dismantling of its privileged domain. That danger is not precluded; in fact, it is imminent. One form of direct competition would be, for example, the creation of private Transpac networks: An enterprise can, by connecting its multiple-service network to special-purpose lines leased from the PTT, create a private network to serve a clientele.

This danger, which so worries the PTT, has not yet materialized.

Certainly, the situation would be extremely delicate. A refusal could create a juridical precedent unfavorable to it. This has already happened in closely neighboring domains, like that of the CB (Citizen Band).

Initially opposed to it, the PTT finally had to give in under pressure from the users. In December 1980, it authorized the import of certain equipment. It is not too far-fetched to expect that in the not very distant future the public network and private networks will share bed and board.

Although the Ministry may be constrained to give up a little of its power with respect to the operation of its network, it definitely intends to remain master of the infrastructure. "We shall not agree to any private company's laying cables within our national territory. City-to-city facilities will be leased." This statement must be taken to mean that the Ministry intends to apply to the letter Article 33 of the PTT Code: "... No installation whatever shall be made without the authorization of the PTT... ."

Louis Mexandeau, minister of PTT, defends this monopoly with verve: "... With the evolution of techniques," he asserted some months ago, "more than ever must the PTT's technical monopolies be maintained, even though their basic justifications may have evolved with time." The audiovisual bill now before the National Assembly confirms this position: The telecommunications technical monopoly is being extended over audiovisual telecommunications as a whole. Article 7 of this bill states that "use of radio frequencies within the national territory is dependent upon authorization by the state... ."

Under this new legislation, TDF loses its monopoly but retains exclusivity with regard to the broadcasting of programs issuing from the public services. All other programs emanating from network channels, companies or local collectivities must be submitted to review and authorization by the state, in this case the Ministry of PTT.

But nothing in this bill, robust as it is (96 articles), addresses the reception of direct-TV satellite broadcasts. Their development, however, unquestionably poses the problem of competition against the monopoly. They make possible the individualized transmission of telecommunications without going through the conventional infrastructure. A simple antenna on a rooftop links the user to the satellite.

The Ministry's Response: A Cable Network

The "due-date" is imminent. In Europe, five or six countries have decided to invest in such satellites (Germany, Great Britain, Sweden, Luxembourg and, of course, France). Telecom 1 will be in service by 1983. Its mission is dual: On the one hand, it will offer a conventional TV broadcast service from the metropole to the five overseas departments, and on the other, it will provide an inter-enterprise service for the transmission of high-speed data. The administration's objective: To lease channels to business firms in the same way it leases special-purpose terrestrial facilities. But will the same rules of the game apply? In time, and in its data transmission version, Telecom 1 will serve all the countries of Europe and the West.

Every new technology brings with it its bundle of juridical problems. In the case of direct-TV satellites, it is the problem of borders. Their range extends far beyond national confines, especially in the case of certain European countries, like Luxembourg. They will thus be flooding neighboring countries with audiovisual programs and advertisements, directly attacking national monopolies. What will be the response? The juridical weapon: Prohibit antennas? Mr Louis Mexandeau has not the slightest intention of resorting to this weapon. During a recent meeting of the National Assembly, in the course of the debate on the audiovisual bill, he stated that "The freedom to receive broadcasts from any origin whatever is a public freedom. At no time has it been a question of prohibiting or authorizing a personal antenna. It goes without saying that the lucky citizen who has the means and so desires is automatically entitled to cover his rooftop."

The Ministry of PTT's weapon will actually be more subtle. It is a counter-attack: Pitting cables against the satellites. It is to put in place a multiple-service digitized cable network offering a gamut of audiovisual programs as rich as the satellites can offer, without the user's having to invest 3,000 francs in a personal antenna.

This ambitious program was explained in a letter from Mr Jack Lang, minister of culture and Mr Louis Mexandeau to the prime minister in May 1981. "The resort to cable," they stated, "will help put a stop to audiovisual underdevelopment in France..., eliminate the threat from private satellites,,," and incidentally safeguard PTT's control.

This digital network, still in the planning stage (the idea has not yet been accepted) would use optical fibers with the aim of eventually building a complete "optical-fiber network" that would merge with the telephone network. There are however a few obstacles to be overcome: Development of multiplexing and switching gear. In this domain, worldwide research is being stepped up. The American AT&T group has made this one of its battle steeds. The market stakes are high!

Thus, the question can already be asked: Will the monopolies be able to withstand the onslaught by the forthcoming winner, if that winner turns out to be on the other side of the Atlantic?

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FRANCE

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES AUTOMATION-WORK RELATIONSHIP

Paris LE NOUVEL ECONOMISTE in French 15 Mar 82 p 41

Editorial by Philippe Lemoine, deputy chief of Delegation on Data Processing and professor at Institute for Political Studies: "Data Processing and Work"

Text Is employment opposed to work? In a period of massive unemployment, the legal and economic notion of employment holds center stage. With it the normative language of rights to employment asserts itself, as does the quantitative language of number of jobs, working hours, pay, and inflation. Little by little, it masks the diversity of the qualitative dimensions of the very particular social relationship constituted by work. Interest seems to be waning concerning questions of content, conditions, and organization of work, its meaning and its finalities. Were the qualitative questionings and demands of the 70's but a flash in the pan?

The paradox lies in noting that this balancing movement, linked to the present juncture, marks not only analyses of the present, but also prospects for the future. Behind the great mutation constituted by the development of data processing and robotics, the dominant question today is that of its "employment balance."

Anxiety is concentrated on a single aspect of the transformations: what jobs will we find tomorrow?

What we would wish to emphasize here, however, is that reflection on computerization and its consequences has no meaning if it excludes qualitative dimensions of work transformations.

Employment is not a statistical envelope, an anonymous and inert stock which gluttonous microprocessors are coming to devour. It is a living process which reflects not only the effectiveness of economic organization, but also the surge of trial and error in the search for new activities, the emergence of new principles of wealth, and the attraction exerted by a society capable of creation and of added value. Without integrating those dimensions, the prospects for employment can only be sterile.

Like a demographic revolution, the information revolution supposes a new balance will be found, one centered on the search for greater training, higher qualifications, and broader responsibility.

Is that in fact the path which has been followed up to now? Too often, the effect of computerization has been to develop constraints and rigidity: case file processing pools in which all work is mechanized, precodified, cadenced; shops in which paper is processed in great masses and by waiting queue; counters where men and women employees are caught between impatient patrons and an imperturbable computer. True, there are opposite examples. But by and large, the model which has still further extended its empire, in industry and also in offices, is that of Taylorism, of separation between conception and execution, of the mincing-up of work for partial profitability.

So it is important rapidly to reverse the trend. It is truly a battle for the qualitative which must be engaged to triumph over the computer revolution and orient it in a direction of progress.

The stakes are decisive, and the battle is winnable. Technology, now miniaturized and flexible, no longer really conditions the material setting of work, and software progress allows a glimpse of the future possibility of easing the constraints of man-machine dialogue.

The questions remaining are social and political. Being accustomed to thinking about conditions of work in the industrial context, we in fact have neither the knowledge nor the reflexes to analyze and master the impacts of computerization. What in fact are "tertiary working conditions"? What are their painful aspects and the paths to their improvement? How should we proceed to analyze preventively the consequences of projects? What information would allow personnel to be associated in their orientation without being drowned in technique?

A first attempt to gather answers to these questions, with the support of the public authorities, took the form of publishing a guide: "Active. Computerization and Life at Work," intended for all those concerned with these questions.*

Through progress in these debates and reflections, shall we not soon rediscover that far from being a luxury for times of prosperity, an open inquiry on human work is in fact an inevitable imperative in a period of crisis and change?

* "Active. Computerization and Life at Work: A Guide to Master the Social Impacts of Data Processing Development". Organization Editions