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SELECTED TRANSLATIONS ON USSR COMMUNICATIONS (8)

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This is a series publication containing translations of items concerning communications in the USSR. The items contained herein, covering the subjects listed in the table of contents below, were taken from various newspapers, periodicals, etc., published in the USSR in February, March and April 1961.

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SELECTED TRANSLATIONS ON USSR COMMUNICATIONS

WHAT ARE THE WIRES BUZZING ABOUT -- Moscow, Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta,
15 March 1961.

The importance of the telephone is well-known. Hundreds of thousands of kilometers of the overhead line and cable communications have been constructed in towns and villages in this country, while hundreds of thousands of telephone sets were installed in towns and villages during only a few recent years. And still there are not enough telephones.

"The discrepancy is widening" was the title of the article published in Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta on 10 January 1961 devoted to the telephone problem. The article provoked numerous responses from the readers.

"I am a worker of the city telephone network and I can see this disproportion better than anyone else" writes A. Fesenko from Sochi. "For instance, entire rayons here are not provided with even a public telephone. It seems that one could expect that communication systems will be also constructed parallel with the extensive building of housing, public and food enterprises, etc."

It appears that the RSFSR Gosplan (State Planning Commission) refuses to provide us with the required equipment, whereas other departments obtain it without any difficulties and construct so-called departmental stations which, as a rule, are operated at less than 50% capacity, and are used in direct violation of technical regulations. Such stations are being built in spite of the fact that they bring no profit."

Members of the Commission of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, who were checking, together with the local experts, the operations of the departmental communications of a number of Sovnarkhozes, came to the same conclusion.

Had the communication system been controlled by one agency, it could have served a number of additional enterprises, establishments and homes of the workmen. How much of the state funds could be saved if the arbitrariness in economic matters in organization of the department of communications was stopped!

This subject is being discussed in the following article.

Operations of the communication system of the Tul'skiy Sovnarkhoz were being checked recently. It appears that every third chief operator's switchboard is idle. Also idle are thousands of numbers which have outlets [at this point original Russian text is illegible] to the Ministry of Communications' public telephone stations. The same is true at Skuratovo, Cherepti, Severo-[?], Stalinogorsk, Borodinsk, Uzlovoi, [?]. On the other hand, Tula, and other large points of the oblast' need telephones badly.

What could be simpler than for the Sovnarkhozes to transfer their facilities to the Ministry of Communications and to use them in a normal manner. The departmental telephone circuits could be multiplexed. As a result, the oblast' would obtain dozens of additional channels for communication between Tula and the towns of Shchekina, Kirayevsk [or Kireyevsk], Bogoroditsk, [?], and the settlements of Gurovo and Tovarkovo. Unification of intercity communication facilities of the Sovnarkhoz and the ministries, would afford considerable improvement in the service received by the enterprises, reduce the operating personnel and release idle equipment. This undertaking alone would save for the state over 100,000 rubles (at a new price scale).

Furthermore, the sovnarkhoz communication service is maintained unsatisfactorily. For example, some ten kilometers of telephone wires between Tula and Skuratovo show numerous splices, broken and dirty insulators and damaged poles. Really, it is hard to believe that the line was overhauled only six months ago!

And how many serious defects are there on the Skuratovo-Shchekino, Tula-Stalinogorsk, Tula-Laptevo and Tula-Cherepet' lines!...

A strange thing may be noted: After each current overhaul of a communication line, its work is even less efficient. For example, if the line breaks down at night the connection is out of order for several hours. Even at a station which belongs to the Sovnarkhoz proper, there is a lot of trouble. During the "peak" hours the subscribers can hardly get the required number. Many of them complain about poor audibility.

Or, take the telegraph office of the Sovnarkhoz. On an average it is being utilized to the extent of only 3%. And only because the Sovnarkhoz personnel took care to overload it with telegrams. These "dispatches" are loquacious to the point of being ridiculous, while it goes without saying that there is nothing "urgent" about them whatsoever.

When the Sovnarkhoz was offered to amalgamate both communication services under one management and to subordinate them to the ministry, the deputy chairman of the Sovnarkhoz, Comrade Yakobson cried:

"Under no circumstances! Don't you realize that it is easier for us to lose the right arm than to agree to such a step!"

Unfortunately, Comrade Yakobson is not alone.

"We are not going to transfer our communications to the Ministry" stated Comrade Grafov, chairman of Kemerovskiy Sovnarkhoz.

He said it straight from the shoulder! During the heated argument he emphasized that the communications were "ours," "yours," "our own," etc.

The "own" communications are being planted with rare persistence. Already, there are two overhead lines between Kemerovo and Prokop'evsk. They are being operated by the oblast' communication administration and the Kuzbassenergo [Kuznet Basin Electric Energy Administration]. Combine "Kuzbassugol" [Kuznet Basin Coal Administration] decided not to be outdone and constructed a 205 kilometer line costing in excess of 200,000 rubles.

That was just the beginning. The combine was not even reprimanded in the Sovnarkhoz for these excesses. The result was that the combine

workers promptly hung hundreds of kilograms of nonferrous metal wires from Kemerovo to Anzherka. In short, during the past several years, some 956 kilometers of inter-city departmental lines have been constructed in Kemerovskaya Oblast' and are operated parallel with the ministry's lines.

There are public intercity long-distance trunk exchange stations in Stalinsk. Pick up the telephone receiver and talk! But, no! They must have their "own" line. Thus six more stations were equipped. Five of these belong to the combines and trusts of the Sovnarkhoz. Incidentally, Stalinsk is no exception. Prokop'evsk and Osinnik each has four intercity exchanges, Kemerovo, Leninsk, Myski and Mezhdurech'e each has three and Belovo has two intercity trunk exchange stations.

Of all the people, comrade Grafov, as former worker in the Gosplan, should know the importance of economizing on metals. Nevertheless, steel in Kuzbass is used unsparingly. For example, the steel rail lengths are used here, instead of reinforced concrete supports for installing the poles. 1,400 tons of rails were thus used in the Kemerovo-Prokop'evsk area alone. Squandering of the metals continue.

"I agree!" said comrade Golovachev, Chairman of Permskiy Sovnarkhoz, in support of the proposal for unification of means of communications. "There could be no other opinion if one considers the matter from the state's point of view. We will talk this over and make a decision."

However, a couple of months later comrade Golovachev became a changed man. As if he was replaced by someone else.

Later on it transpired that the zealous departmentalists dissuaded the chairman: "You are new in this Sovnarkhoz. You do not realize that all our operations depend on having our own means of communication. How can we give it up?"

Thus life in the Permskiy Sovnarkhoz remains unchanged. The Sovnarkhoz wires are buzzing and singing as loudly as ever, muffling the sound of the ministry wires at Kungur, Kizel', Berezniki, Kudymkar and Solikamsk.

Moreover, the expensive equipment of the radio relay and radio communication systems is being utilized for transmission of...news summaries. Many of departmental branch points have inflated staffs. The "Kizel'ugol'" combine's communication center employs twice as many people as necessary. It is small wonder, therefore, that the cost of the sovnrkhoz line structures is 3.5 times as high as that of the line of the Communication Administration of Permskaya Oblast'.

What is the reason for all this? The answer is simple. Some time ago in order to control more efficiently the various enterprises and projects the ministries acquired their own telephone lines. This resulted in gradual appearance of a fairly far-flung network of departmental lines, parallel to the government ones.

However, many ministries have since been abolished. It would seem that the necessity for this type of communication should have disappeared too. Alas, the departmental habits proved to be quite tenacious. The Sovnarkhozes not only accepted the inheritance unconditionally, but augmented it considerably. Thus, in Sakhalinskiy Sovnarkhoz, one long-

distance telephone connection is maintained strictly for the use of the manager of the Holmskiy Transportation and Storage Office. Another line operates no more than one hour a day.

As a rule, utilization of departmental lines is inefficient, maintenance is poor and operating costs are high. The lines are used exceptionally seldom in the evenings, at night, on holidays and the days preceding them.

Organization of the technical and general operations of the means of communication is extremely poor. Most of the equipment is assembled and operated in violation of the established standards and regulations.

Most of the departmental lines, almost everywhere, are unlicensed and function without the benefit of regular inspection and a preventive maintenance program. Managers of many stations take advantage of the laxity of sovmarkhoz controls and accumulate superfluous and often unnecessary stocks of very expensive equipment. Six "MPS" type switchboards and the low-frequency amplification equipment of the "SUTU-8" type, laid a long time in the warehouses of the "Prikamles" trust of Permskiy Sovmarkhoz, while the "OV-3" type three-wire systems and fifty rare "IHK-2" type devices, and other equipment, were stored in the warehouses of Korsakovskaya Transportation & Storage Office of the Sakhalinskiy Sovmarkhoz. 60,000 rubles worth of measuring instruments and other equipment are stored in three agencies of the Sakhalinskiy Sovmarkhoz alone.

Unification of the all-state and the departmental means of communications is long overdue and it is about time that this is done. It will improve technical service, eliminate inter-departmental disunity, increase efficiency of channel utilization, flexibility and interchange of methods of communication, and will substantially reduce the inflated staffs. In Sakhalinskiy Sovmarkhoz alone the expenses would be reduced by 250,000-300,000 rubles, while in the Tul'skiy and Permskiy Sovmarkhozes, by 100,000 rubles each.

The imperative advisability of unification of the departmental and general government means of communication is further proved by the successful experience of the Moscow, Leningradskiy and Sverdlovskiy Sovmarkhozes which have long ago transferred their communication systems to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Communications RSFSR.

WHAT ARE THE WIRES BUZZING ABOUT ... (Reader's Conversation with the Editors) -- Moscow, Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta, 20 April 1961

Our reader is an active individual. He writes to the paper every time something excites him. In the letters-to-the-editor section you may find most everything, including, comments on Yu. Gagarin's flight, articles on the subjects of economy, letters suggesting simplification of payments for public services, etc., etc.

Thus a mutually interesting conversation begins between the reader and the editors.

Readers, comrades Fedorov, Lyubavin and Kozyrev printed an article "What are the Wires Buzzing About..." in the 15 March edition of the Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta. Thus they started a campaign important for the entire national economy about transferring the departmental telephone networks to the branches of the Ministry of Communications.

Comrade Krup, deputy of the Sochinskiy City Council of Workers, who is the reader of Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta deemed it his duty to write to the newspaper.

"I sincerely thank," he writes, "the editors of the paper for attempting so persistently to solve such an important question. It is to be hoped that it will be resolved before the end of the 1961. It would help to improve considerably the communication service for the urban population without any capital expenditure.

With justifiable indignation, Comrade Tolstyy, Chief of the Donskoy rayon communications office of Tul'skaya Oblast' writes: "Can you call it normal when telephone circuits of the "Krasnoarmeyskugol'" and "Donskoyugol'" are idle?...Direct lines connect the residences of individual workers. We agree that comrade Medvedev, Secretary of Kimovskiy City Committee of the Party requires a telephone at his residence. But why should he have a direct long-distance line? Such lines could be utilized by many more persons. I am not even mentioning that scores of the workers use their telephones free of any charge which is contrary to the government ruling. Many thousands of subscribers in Tul'skaya Oblast' freely communicate with any inhabited point in the Soviet Union by-passing the inter-city telephone exchange.

Yes, it is difficult to accept this without protest!

Unfortunately, not everybody considers the communications system national property. There are executives who look upon this service almost as though it is their private property. They would do anything to keep it in their hands.

"Imagine" say Sakhalinskiy Sovnarkhoz officials, "we operate mines and you want to deprive us of the means of communicating with the miners..."

However, no encroachment is made upon underground (shaft) telephones. The question at hand is the overhead communication lines doubling the work of the city network of public telephones.

"Defending their own narrow departmental interests," writes comrade Kuznetsov, Chief Engineer of the Sakhalinskaya Oblast' Administration, "The bosses at the Sakhalinugol' resort to pure deceit. An ATS (Automatic Telephone Station) switchboard has been installed in the town of Makarov side by side with the switchboard of a subterranean communication system. The whole installation is referred to as a station, while the underground system switchboard is called a transfer board."

They try all kinds of tricks. "In order to accumulate a more substantial figure of the cost of inter-city conversations, the miners show that the Southern Sakhalinsk-Kholmsk communications operate at the rate of 64,470 tariff-minutes. The cost -- 7,740 rubles. This would mean that the manager of a transportation & storage office is "hanging" on the telephone for four hours daily. When does he find the time to visit the

base, receive people, make decisions? Incredible!... We decided to check the figures. Time metering proved that during three days the manager used the telephone only 12 times."

It is possible that postal clerks are not objective and are interested in unification of communications only out of personal material considerations? "Oh no," says comrade Kuznetsov, "none of us receive any raises or get bonuses. All we get is increased work."

And yet, people stubbornly stick to their guns because they know that the question of telephone communications in the country is still an unsolved problem.

"Everyone who is not lazy may construct his own means of communications," writes comrade Tarasov, public controller of the Soviet Control Commission from Leningrad. "As a rule, new lines are installed parallel to those already in operation. Not one of these lines is maintained properly, in spite of considerable expenditures. For example, "Lenergo" spent 700,000 roubles last year; "Lengostorf", -- 16,000."

Comrade Tarasov tells in detail of how departmental communication lines are being "constructed." While planning the Serpukhov-Leningrad telephone line for the Glavgaz /Main Gas Administration/ USSR, the Leningrad Branch of the "Giprosvyaz" specified over thirty cable inserts. Later some of them were discarded. Incidentally, construction of the overhead line (alongside the gas main) started in 1958. Two years later it was in operation. Serious defects were registered along the route: in some areas the wires were not properly hung; no supports were constructed in marshy regions; crossings over the railroad tracks and highways were not properly equipped, etc. The quality of the construction carried out under the supervision of comrade Vaynblat, chief of the specialized agency No 8, was extremely poor. It is no wonder that during the past year the line counted 180 break-downs some of which could not be repaired for days.

Comrade Zhizhkin, Chief of the Stalinskaya Oblast' Administration and Comrade Beygel'zimer, Chief of the Electrical Communications Department write us as follows: "Lately, the Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta started publishing letters and articles uncovering the shortcomings and fallaciousness of the dual development in tele-communications in the Ministry and the sovmarkhozes."

The authors thoroughly confirm their thesis by sound arguments.

"Simple calculation shows," they write, "that, all conditions being equal, the cost to the sovmarkhoz of one hour's use of an inter-city telephone channel, during the busiest time, is 37% higher than that of the use of the government network. Considering that the efficiency of the utilization by the sovmarkhoz of its long-distance telephone channels is lower than that of utilization of the Ministry's communications, it must be concluded that this percentage will increase.

More than half of the cities of Stalinskaya Oblast' have double telephone channels of the Sovmarkhoz and Ministry of Communications. There are three lines between Stalino and Krasnoarmeysk. In spite of the fact that all three are installed along the same route, their maintenance and repairs are attended to by the workers of different organizations."

There is a lot of unused reserves in Moscow. Extra city telephones were taken away from a number of establishments last year, and replaced with the sets connected to local switchboards. As a result, some 6,000 applications for telephone service were approved.

Unfortunately, this work is incomplete. For instance, the Ministry of Power Stations owns a powerful automatic telephone station. However, 600 of its available numbers remain unused. The Ministry prefers to hold 400 city telephones. Other departments are just as lax in utilizing their possibilities.

The leaders of some of the sovnarkhozes agree with the authors of the article "What the Wires are Buzzing About." Comrade A. Golovachev, Chairman of Permskiy Sovnarkhoz, advised the editors that preparations are underway at present for the transfer of the Sovnarkhoze's main lines of communications to the oblast' office of the Ministry of Communications.

The reader was right: It is high time that our communication service is managed by one master.

A SMILE OVER THE TELEPHONE -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 24 March 1961

The loudspeaker installed in the hall of the long-distance public call office, blared the words of the telephone operator:

"Will the citizen awaiting connection with Kiev please step into booth two."

A few quick steps and we are inside the booth. Comfortable arm-chair and a small table, sound-proof walls and a bright light. Having made ourselves comfortable we take the telephone off the hook. The light in the booth is extinguished and, simultaneously, the blue screen of the sound table telephone set lights up. Another second and we see on the screen a familiar smiling face.

"Greetings, friend! How pleasant it is to see you smile over the telephone!"

"I am also very glad to see and hear you." The friendly chat continues. Great distances separating them do not prevent them from seeing familiar faces and hearing dear voices.

Obviously, the reader already guessed that we are talking about a long-distance video-telephonic communication.

True, it does not yet exist. We have peeked into the future, but the future is not too distant. The video-telephone is coming to serve the people, from the laboratories and institutes and from the pavillions and halls of the exhibitions.

This is a new type of communication in which television and telephone are combined. For the successful operation of the video-telephone it is necessary to have special equipment and a large number of available inter-city television channels between the subscribing cities.

The results of the experiments and studies of the video-telephone problems conducted by the Moscow and Leningrad scientific research institutes of communications, permitted the Ministry of Communications USSR to make a decision to organize in 1961 the first experimental intercity

video-telephone connection between Moscow and Leningrad and Moscow and Kiev.

The radio relay communication systems were constructed last year between Kiev, Moscow and Leningrad. They made it possible to actuate dozens of intercity telephone communication channels between these points and to organize the television program exchange.

When television channels are freed from intercity telecasting, they will be used for video-telephone communications.

During the first half of 1961 the Moscow State Planning Institute of Communications will work out target plans for equipping the studio-booths for Moscow, Kiev and Leningrad and for organizing the video-telephone connection between these cities. For these purposes it is proposed to utilize the standard apparatus from the set of a small TV station or from industrial television installations. The scientific research institutes and communication plants will build the necessary equipment.

Video-telephone communications will find wide application not only in intercity conversations of two subscribers. It can be used for various conferences, chess matches, demonstration of models and samples of various goods, etc.

It is anticipated that the first video-telephone in Uzbekistan might be put in operation on the Tashkent-Andizhan-Fergana line. Radio relay system of communications will be constructed in that area this year and will actuate dozens of telephone and television channels.

Should experiments in Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev meet with success, the video-telephone will also occupy an important place within the lines of communication of Uzbekistan.

TELEPHONE PROBLEMS -- Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 23 March 1961

It is no secret that development of the telephone network in Moscow cannot catch up with the tempo of the housing and cultural everyday growth. The number of new apartments, schools, kindergartens, stores, offices and enterprises not provided with the telephone service increases in the city every year. Some places on the outskirts do not even have public telephones.

Why, what are the reasons that caused an installation of a telephone in Moscow to become such a tremendous problem?

When answering this question it is customary in most cases to state that the funds and materials allotted for the development of the telephone network in the capital are inadequate. True, there is a point there. However, there are also other reasons.

For some strange reason the general attitude toward telephonization of a city is that the matter is of secondary importance. In 1960 more than 500 houses were let out for rent without any appraisal of their suitability for future installation of telephones. It must be remembered that apart from inconvenience to the tenants the telephone technicians would have to break through the street pavement, lawns, etc.

Logically speaking, the planning and installation of communication structures in the capital should be in the hands of the "Giprosvyaz" [State Design Institute for Communications] planning institute and the "Mostelefonstroy trust [Moscow Telephone Building]. Actually, however, dozens of construction and planning agencies of various departments take part in this business. They do not always coordinate their actions or take into account the requirements for the future development planning of the city. Because of such disorganization and lack of cooperation, the funds are squandered and material and financial resources exhausted.

What about the "Mostelefonstroy" trust? 60% of the work performed by the trust has no direct connection with Moscow.

Could such a situation be rectified? Yes, it could, only if the capital had one thoughtful master who could make all the decisions connected with the development and operation of the telephone network. Mossovet (Moscow City Council) only can be such a master. This important question must be studied and solved.

After the transfer to the city of the telephone network, another organization should be set up (possibly along the lines of the present Telephone Network Administration) which should take charge of not only operating the existing installations, but, also, of coordinating the activities of the planning and construction organizations.

No additional expenditure will be required, while placing the installation of the telephone structures under control will afford a more effective utilization of material resources earmarked for the purpose. Furthermore, such a reorganization would permit enlisting the cooperation of the rayon Soviet deputies and general public in the matter of basic improvement of the system of assigning telephone numbers.

Until now the development of line installations was accomplished by means of laying the high capacity trunk cables. Meanwhile, some ten years ago, new equipment had been developed which would reduce considerably the requirements for expensive cable. However, the Ministry of Communications USSR does not seem to be paying enough attention to the introduction of that valuable technique.

A correct utilization of the available means of communications would afford a considerable saving. In Moscow, apart from general automatic telephone system (ATS), there are hundreds of departmental telephone stations. The latter have about 70,000 unassigned numbers. Moreover, in frequent cases a considerable number of direct city telephones are used in addition.

For example, Ministry of Power Stations uses 409 city telephones whereas 600 of the 2,000 numbers of its own ATS are not used. "Rosglavneftesbyt" has a telephone station with the capacity for 1,800 numbers and yet it uses 285 city telephones. The Ministry of Automobile Transport & Highways RSFSR uses 58 city telephones and its own ATS of 500 telephones. The State Committee of Radio Broadcasting and Television has 197 city numbers and a 600-telephone ATS.

Experience proves that the transfer of departmental stations to the city administration is definitely advantageous. During the year of

1960 alone, thanks to the unused capacity of such stations and the release by the departments of extra telephones over 6,000 applications for telephone service could be satisfied.

However, this substantial unused reserve of telephone facilities does not receive adequate attention from the Telephone Network Administration and the problems are being solved extremely slowly.

Another important problem is the one relative to the two-party line telephone service. Here is one example. A building located at 78, Leninskiy Avenue (94 flats) had only 48 pairs of telephone connections, but all the flats have telephones. Such a solution can also be applied to the telephone problems of not only individual buildings, but of the entire region, such as Leninskiy Avenue, Cheremushki, Vegovaya Street and others.

However, this problem is being solved very slowly too.

Of course, there are many other reserves which could be mentioned in connection with the city telephonization program. These problems should be seriously considered by the officials of the Ministry of Communications, RSFSR and the Moscow Telephone Network Administration.

LET US TALK ABOUT THE TELEPHONE -- Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya,
30 March 1961

The shortage of telephones in apartments is acutely felt. As of 1 January 1961 there were 6,000 outstanding applications for telephone service in Minsk. Amongst the capitals of the union republics Minsk takes thirteenth place in the number of telephones installed per each 100 persons. And, instead of decreasing, this lag increases every day. Telephone service is particularly inadequate in such densely-populated blocks as the small region along Stalingradskaya Street, Severnyy, Yuzhnyy and Zapadnyy settlements and the town of Kamvol'nyy Combine. Many houses have no telephone service even in the central part of the city, such as the area of the Yakub Kolas Square.

In order to overcome this deficiency, many establishments and organizations are compelled to develop departmental telephone service. Already, there are over one hundred such dwarf telephone stations of a total capacity of 8,500 numbers.

As long ago as 1956 the Government prohibited acceptance of the new dwellings unless they had telephone conduit inlets installed. Gorispolkom [City Executive Committee] was instructed to provide accommodations for the ATS at the Oktyabr'skiy, Frunzenskiy and Stalinskiy rayons. However, the instructions are not carried out by the leaders of the Gosispolkom.

For example, 500 multi-storied buildings were rented out in Minsk in 1959. 450 of those buildings had no cable inlets. Of the 4,260 apartments rented out last year, 3,850 have no telephone facilities. As of now, no telephone service is available either to the polyclinics on Solnechnaya Street, in the settlement of Slep'yanka or in the hospital of the settlement of the ball-bearing plant. Minsk residents received

many kindergartens and nurseries last year; however, only two of these institutions obtained telephones.

It must be noted that because of the inadequacy of the telephone mains, the cable installations in many houses, medical and child-care establishments cannot be utilized. For example, houses on the streets of Zmitrok Byadulya, Rosa Luxemburg and Yakub Kolas are not connected to the main line.

In this case the fault lies with No 3 Construction & Installation Administration of the "Soyuztelefonstroy" Trust which systematically delays installation of the ATS equipment and line structures. For example, in 1959 and 1960 that organization should have arranged for providing additional capacity for 2,000 numbers at ATS-2. The bosses of the Ministry of Communications, Gorispolkom and SMU-3 have been arguing for two years as to where should the SMU offices be transferred from that building. Finally, the premises was vacated. However, installation goes on extremely slowly.

The telephonization operations are still not included in the general plans for the city development. This often results in repeated excavations in the streets. And the builders often delay the backfilling of the excavated trenches. Although the SMU-3 completed laying the cable on the street of Mayakovskiy in August last year, the asphalt paving has not been restored until now. The work on Germanovskaya Street has been going on since 1959. Rosa Luxemburg, Leo Tolstoy, Aerodromnaya and other streets have been dug up. In an attempt to subdue somewhat the builders' passion for excavations, the City Executive Committee restricted issuance of permits for installation of telephone conduits. However, that did not stop comrade Rymsha, chief of the SMU-3. Acting without any permission he gave orders to dig up Ural'skaya Street.

In some cases, installation of telephone mains is impeded by a shortage of materials. Especially scarce is asbestos-cement conduit pipe. The quantity of the pipe allocated to the Ministry of Communications this year is much smaller than that supplied last year. However, cement pipe can be replaced with concrete blocks, but not a single plant in the entire construction industry organized production of such blocks.

Strange as it may seem, the delays in the development of the city telephone network are also the fault of the Ministry of Communications Belorussian USSR, which allows large gaps between the time of completion of building and the time of releasing for operation the ATS structures and line installations. This is the reason, for instance, why ATS-5 has been operating the whole year at only 50% of its capacity. Also, the Ministry did not take the necessary and timely measures to provide the automobile plant with materials and equipment for the extension ATS. This resulted in postponing the utilization of the new facilities of this station until next year. In the meantime, residents of the plant region experience great inconvenience due to unavailability of the city automatic telephone service.

The telephone communications in Minsk, as well as in other cities of the republic, must be developed extensively. The telephones are necessary for everyone just as much as the electric power, gas and the water service.

IN ORDER TO SEE MOSCOW -- Minsk, Soyetskaya Belorussiya, 23 March 1961

This year television audiences of the Belorussian capital and the adjacent inhabited areas, will see broadcasts from Moscow, Leningrad, Riga, Tallinn and Vilnius -- in addition to the program of the Minsk studio. This will become possible when the radio relay system, the construction of which is nearing completion, will be put into operation. Tallinn and Riga managed to receive television broadcasts from Leningrad and from Moscow via Leningrad in 1959 and 1960, respectively. Vilnius should receive similar broadcasts during the second quarter of the current year. Installation of equipment and the adjustment of apparatuses are being now carried out at the intermediate radio relay stations in the Vilnius-Minsk area.

Along with the erection of the Baltic radio relay communication system, a second line is being constructed between Moscow and Minsk, via Smolensk, and Orsha. The radio relay line to Orsha was fully completed at the end of 1960.

In order to expedite the inauguration of the radio-relaying of television broadcasts which will be available in Minsk, the Technical Council of the Ministry of Communications of the Belorussian SSR decided last year to install at the Minsk TV Center a temporary low power radio relay station of the TRSA-56 type. By utilizing the existing tower antenna support, the radio relay station will provide broadcasts of the second TV program up to a distance of 20-25 kilometers. For transmission of the second television program in the future, a powerful transmitter will be installed to ensure visibility of the TV picture at a distance of up to 70 kilometers.

If the broadcasts of the Minsk TV studio (first program) are conducted through the existing center on Channel 1, then the broadcasts which will be received in Minsk from Moscow, Leningrad and other cities (second program) via the radio relay communication system, will be transmitted by the new television radio relay station on Channel 6. This will necessitate modification of the television sets in order to adapt them to the reception of Channel 6. The fact of the matter is that of more than 50,000 various types of television sets operating in Minsk and the adjacent areas, only about 30,000 of the 1958-1960 models are equipped to receive Channel 6. They have a multi-channel duplexer (switch) which ensures reception of all twelve TV Channels available in our country.

The technical adaptation of the remaining 20,000 TV sets to the reception of the second program can be accomplished by various methods. For example, TV sets equipped with a single-channel switch may be modified to have a multi-channel switch (duplexer). Adjustment of one of the channels in a three-channel set to the frequency of Channel 6 can be accomplished. Finally, a special attachment (adapter) can be installed on such TV sets for reception of Channel 6.

It goes without saying that adaptation of the above-mentioned 20,000 TV sets to the reception of Channel 6 will require over 10,000 sets of multi-channel duplexers. Obviously, the Minsk Television Shop

No 16 should make the necessary arrangements beforehand to ensure the delivery of the required quantity of these switches.

At the same time, the Electro-Technical & Instrument Manufacturing Industrial Administration, Sovnarkhoz of the Belorussian SSR should instruct the Engineering Design Bureau of the Minsk Radio Plant to design quickly a low cost attachment (adapter) and begin its production.

It is also time to give some thought to the matter of antennae for receiving Channel 6. Let us remember that the length of the horizontal arm of an outdoor or indoor antenna for reception of the existing TV station on Channel 1 is 138 centimeters, while that for reception of Channel 6 is 42 cm.

The development of telecasting in Minsk, reception of television programs from Moscow, Leningrad and the capitals of other sister republics will enhance further the communist education of the workers.

TELEVISION IN LITHUANIA -- Riga, Sovetskaya Latvija, 11 April 1961

Vilnius. The radio relay system has been put in operation between the capital of Lithuania and Kaunas. Television radio relay stations have been installed also in the port of Klaipeda, in Panevezys and the well-known resort Druskininkai. The Vilnius TV Station transmissions already reach the majority of the inhabited places in the republic.

Installation of a radio relay station in Shyaulyai next year, will enable all corners of Lithuania to watch television.

MOSCOW ON THE LINE -- Leningrad, Vecherniy Leningrad, 24 February 1961

...You wish to talk with a friend who lives in Moscow. Take the telephone receiver off the hook, dial several definite numerals, after which your telephone automatically connected with the capital. All that is left now is for you to dial the Moscow number of your friend.

Such communication is still non-existent in our city. However, one of the ATS's of the Petrogradskaya Storona and the Intercity Telephone Station are already working today on installing and setting up experimental automatic intercity telephone communication equipment. This equipment was developed by the Central Scientific Research Institute of Communications and the Leningrad Scientific Research Institute of the City and Village Telephone Communications and was manufactured partly in Leningrad and partly in Moscow. It is complicated equipment which has special numerical selectors and meters for determining the number of the telephone making a call and for recording the length of the conversation. The equipment is already installed at one of the ATS's at the Petrogradskaya Storona and at present is being tested and adjusted.

The initial automatic connection with Moscow will be received by the subscribers with prefix V-39. Upon completion of experimental operation all residents of Leningrad whose telephone numbers begin with letter V will be given the opportunity to have automatic connection with Moscow. Toward the end of the 7-Year-Plan all Leningrad subscribers will be able to use automatic telephone service with Moscow and with certain other cities.

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