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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 8

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INTERNATIONAL

YUGOSLAV, IRAQI INFORMATION OFFICIALS HOLD TALKS IN BELGRADE

Belgrade TANJUG in English 1657 GMT Jun 77 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, 21 June (TANJUG)--Muhamed Berberovic, member of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council and chairman of the Federal Committee for Information, has received Taha Yasin al-Basria, undersecretary of the ministry of information, culture and tourism of the Republic of Iraq, in Yugoslavia now on an invitation from this committee.

In the ensuing friendly talk of some length, opinions on the present degree of the development of cooperation in the sphere of information bilaterally and multilaterally were exchanged in detail. Special attention was paid to several questions concerning the nonaligned countries' cooperation in the field of information from the standpoint of Iraq's and Yugoslavia's activities as members of the non-aligned countries' coordinating bodies for information, the Coordination Council and the Pool's coordination committee. Within this context, it was assessed that the forthcoming conference of the non-aligned countries' radio and TV organizations to take place in Yugoslavia towards the end of October has an exceptional political significance since it is to analyze and discuss the existing state of infrastructure development in the sphere of radio and television, overall bilateral cooperation and cooperation within existing regional and interregional unions and consider possible directions in the further promotion and expansion of this cooperation.

Regarding the course of preparations for this meeting, both sides expressed the view that prior to the conference all non-aligned countries--especially the members of the working group--should do their best to ensure the meeting adopt an action program for cooperation in which special attention is devoted to the solving of priority problems, like cooperation in programming, professional training, etc.

The recent meeting of the International Expert Committee for Telecommunications of the non-aligned, held in early May in Baghdad, was assessed as positive in the talk. The meeting of the non-aligned countries' working group, entrusted

with the preparations for the meeting of representatives of journalist organizations of non-aligned countries, was also assessed as positive. This meeting was held by mid-May this year in Baghdad.

The shared belief was expressed in the talk that cooperation in information among the non-aligned is developing well and that a number of concrete actions underway will contribute still more to the promotion of this cooperation with the aim of establishing relations of greater equality in the world information structure.

CSO: 5500

INTERNATIONAL

FRG TV OFFICIAL DISCUSSES NEWS SHARING IN THAILAND

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 12 Jul 77 BK

[Text] At 1530 on 12 July Horst Bode, news director of FRG National Television and also coordinator for exchanging of news with Arab countries, called on Public Relations Department Director General Kamchat Kpphanit. They discussed the exchange of television news. The director of the public relations school, Frathan Rangsimaphon, and Radio Thailand Deputy Director for Foreign News Somchit Sitthichai also participated in the discussions.

The FRG National Television News Director explained that five East European countries began exchanging television news in 1960. The Arab and West European countries have subsequently participated in this exchange. He said that East Asian countries are now very interested in this exchange program. They will be the fourth group, if they should decide to join. He said that African and Latin American countries are also contemplating joining this program.

If all six groups join the program, the television relay network would cover virtually the whole globe. This shows that television has become very important and has expanded very quickly.

Television officials in Europe are trying to persuade television officials in other areas of the world to join this program because the transmission of news via satellite is already underway through a European center--Rome--in two directions--over the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab countries and over the Indian Ocean to Middle East countries. The expenses in transmitting the signal have already been paid, and it is believed that this service should benefit countries which can receive such a signal. Such countries will be able to receive world news transmitted by European countries without having to pay additional expenses. The only expense to the countries receiving the signal will merely be service costs to be paid to local satellite communication organizations, which will be about \$600 for the first 10 minutes. However, if countries in the same region join in the program, the expense each country has to bear will be even less.

The European countries want more news from the developing countries. They have been receiving only news of crises and disasters from foreign news agencies. The developing countries can, if they join this program, inexpensively transmit any news they wish the rest of the world to know.

The Public Relations Department showed great interest in this program of exchanging television news via satellites. It is believed that all four Thai television stations will soon be experimenting with this program.

CSO: 5500

INTERNATIONAL

BRIEFS

UGANDA, TASS AGREEMENT--The acting minister of information and broadcasting, Mr Abdul Nasser, has signed an agreement on behalf of Uganda Government with the TASS News Agency of the Soviet Union at the ministry's headquarters in Nakasero. The Soviet Union Ambassador, Mr Musiyko, signed on behalf of his government. Mr Abdul Nasser explained that the signing of the agreement was delayed for some time as a result of the government's formalities. The acting minister revealed that similar agreements have been signed between Uganda and Reuter of Britain and [words indistinct] AFP. Mr Abdul Nasser said that with the signing of the agreements Uganda has now got three agencies, reflecting (?the interests) of both Western and Eastern hemispheres. The acting minister further revealed that in the very near future [words indistinct] similar agreements will be signed with Afro-Arab news agencies. [Text] [Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 13 Jul 77 LD/EA]

NONALIGNED BROADCASTING COOPERATION--Amman, 9 Jul, TASS--The preparatory committee of broadcasting station directors of nonaligned countries, meeting here, decided to call a conference in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, on 27 October this year. The committee approved the conference report and prepared an agenda for it. The forthcoming conference is called upon to coordinate the activities of radio stations of nonaligned states. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1720 GMT 9 Jul 77 LD]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTER TO USSR--CSSR--Mohamed Zerguini, minister of posts and telecommunications, left Algiers last night for official visits to the USSR and Czechoslovakia, at the invitation of the governments of the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia. During these visits, Zerguini will sign agreements on cooperation in the field of posts and telecommunications. [Text] [Algiers International Service in French 1800 GMT 15 Jul 77 LD]

EUROPE-WEST AFRICA CABLE SYSTEM--Nigeria and four countries have signed a protocol agreement in Lagos. The pact covers the Ivory Coast-Nigeria segment of the Europe-West Africa submarine cable system. The project, which will cost 26 million naira, is expected to become operational next year. The Nigerian commissioner for communications, Mr S.O. Williams, signed for their countries. Mr Williams said that the agreement would result in the achievement of another complementary network that would be useful to members of [word indistinct]. The system is designed to link Penmarch in France with Casablanca, Dakar, Abidjan, Lagos [words indistinct]. The Penmarch-Casablanca section of the project has been functioning since 1973. The second section--Casablanca-Dakar--went into use this year. [Text] [Lagos International Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Jun 77 LD]

HUNGARY, CUBA TV AGREEMENT--Budapest, 14 July, MTI--Richard Nagy, president of the Hungarian Television, and Nivaldo Herrera Sardines, President of the Cuban Radio and Television Institute, signed Thursday in Budapest a work plan for the years 1977-79. The work plan provides for the organization of programs introducing each other's country, broadcasting of national evenings, regular exchange of films and transmission of the meeting of the world's youth. [Text] [Budapest MTI in English 1716 GMT 14 Jul 77 LD]

GDR-SWISS RADIO COOPERATION--GDR Radio and the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation [SRG] will in the future increase their cooperation. This emerges from a joint working protocol signed in Berne by Rudi Singer, chairman of the GDR State Broadcasting Committee, and Dr Stelio Molo, director general of the SRG. In particular there will be expansion in the exchange of the spoken word and music programs, the relaying of programs from international festivals, the Zurich music week and the Berlin biennial music festival, and mutual assistance in reporting were also agreed upon. [Text] [East Berlin Voice of the GDR Domestic Service in German 1100 GMT 14 Jun 77 LD]

CSO: 5500

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

THAILAND TO PAY FOR PART OF SINGAPORE-PHILIPPINES CABLE

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 13 Jul 77 BK

[Excerpt] The cabinet meeting was held as usual today at Government House, according to Minister Attached to Prime Minister's Office Dusit Siriwan. Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian chaired this meeting.

The permanent ASEAN Committee for Land Transportation and Communications held its fifth meeting in Manila between 11 and 13 March and decided to form a working committee on underwater cable to study the construction of an underwater cable linking the ASEAN countries. This working committee held its first meeting in Kuala Lumpur and its second one in Bangkok. In these meetings, decisions were made on the route and capacity of the cable and the time and funds involved in the construction. It also made a decision on the participation of ASEAN countries in this cable project--all ASEAN countries must share in the construction cost of every portion of the cable in direct proportion to their use of the circuit in each portion.

It was decided that Singapore will pay for 35 percent, the Philippines 13 percent, Indonesia 27 percent, Malaysia 23 percent and Thailand 2 percent of the construction costs of the cable linking Singapore and the Philippines. The Post and Telegraph Department feels that Thailand should share in this construction cost. Thailand's share in the construction of the Singapore-Phillipine cable will be 2 percent or about 21 million baht.

This project will also testify to the cooperation among the ASEAN countries, particularly to cooperation in providing telecommunication service to the peoples of this region. This underwater cable project can be regarded as an example of complete success in cooperation among the ASEAN countries.

Moreover, this 2 percent share represents the lowest single contribution considering the fact that all ASEAN countries will be joint owners of all portions of ASEAN underwater cable.

The communications Ministry has studied the matter and supports the proposal of the Post and Telegraph Department. It thus proposed that the Post and Telegraph Department be authorized to commit Thailand to share in the con-

struction costs and in the ownership of the ASEAN underwater cable linking Singapore and the Philippines. Thailand's share will be 2 percent--about 21 million baht--of the total costs. This amount will be allocated from the budgets of the Communications Organization of Thailand, the organization which will provide telecommunication services and will collect fees from such services transmitted via this cable.

The cabinet, after deliberation, approved the Communications Ministry's proposal.

CSO: 5500

INDIA

PAPER HAILS DECISION TO ACQUIRE GEOSTATIONARY SATELLITE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jul 77 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Swifter Into Space"]

[Text] The decision to acquire a geostationary communications satellite for this country's exclusive use must be hailed as being bold and imaginative. Once we were set on the road of basing our long-term communications network on satellites it was merely a matter of determining the pace of progress. Acquisition would be expensive but is an indication of the need to push on with greater vigour. It saves time and gives more impetus to the excellent work that has been going on for some time in space research. Aryabhata was aloft in 1975, a small, mildly qualified success. The SEO [Satellite for Earth Observations] for earth observations (425 kg, Rs. 6 crores) is due to be up next year. After the SITE [Satellite Instructional Television Experiment] using an American geosynchronous satellite there now has begun the STEP [Satellite Transmission Experiment Program] using the French-German Symphonie. And in 1980 the European Launcher Ariane will carry as its main payload a 616-kg, Indian-built package of great complexity. But all these have their limitations. For instance, the SEO can be tracked and information gathered from each of its passes across India only for 6 to 12 minutes at a time, whereas a stationary satellite is ours for keeps, day and night. Initially telecommunications and weather studies will be its main tasks, but subsequently remote sensing, television relay and fundamental research in solar and planetary physics and allied disciplines will be undertaken. Additionally, we may expect quicker software development (a field in which we are already fairly advanced) and gain more experience with earth stations and actual operation of the satellite. It will certainly mean that we shall get into space in a big way swifter than ever.

What about the cost? One estimate is that a geostationary satellite will cost as much as Rs. 200 crores (this is on the high side) and the expenditure on ground stations, power, operation and maintenance will be extra. But the figure misleads. An advanced satellite can be confidently expected

to have a useful life of at least 10 years. In any case, the 10-year space profile suggested by the Indian Space Research Organisation specifies Rs. 400 crores for the entire satellite network. The real issue then, is not the initial investment but the acceleration of our space and communications programme. Forgetting the TV aspect of it for the moment (although this is what strikes the common man most), consider the benefits that may be derived in meteorology, hydrology, oceanography, infrared astronomy and detailed surveys of the country's little-mapped resources. In view of all this vast potential the government's decision to move swiftly ahead in space is absolutely sound.

CSO: 5500

INDIA

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL TELEX SERVICES--Direct automatic international Telex service is expected to come into operation in the country this year. Sophisticated equipment has been installed in Bombay for this purpose at an estimated cost of rupees 40 million. The equipment, which has a capacity of 450 Telex trunk lines, is now undergoing tests. Similar equipment will also be set up in New Delhi. This has been stated in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Communications for 1976-77. The government is considering the setting up of a submarine cable between Madras and Penang. It will provide a link with several South Asian countries and access to the American and Australian continents via undersea cables in the Pacific Ocean. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 77 BK]

CSO: 5500

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

WORLDWIDE NEWS SERVICE--Manila, 11 Jul (AFP)--The Philippines may launch this year a worldwide news service to be called International News Exchange (INEX), which will serve Third World countries, a veteran Manila news columnist has revealed. Commentator Teodoro Valencia of the newspaper PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS, who has a reputation for closeness to President Ferdinand Marcos, said the objective of INEX would be to correct the "imbalance" and "misinformation" in the reporting by Western news agencies about developing countries. Mr Valencia made the disclosure when he spoke before delegates to the current meeting here of the Confederation of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Journalists. The meeting is attended by newsmen from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. Proposed to be capitalized at 30 million pesos (U.S.\$4 million) INEX will be financed by private entities in the Philippines and in countries willing to participate in the project, Mr Valencia said. Although the staffers may be Filipinos mostly at the start, the idea is to have correspondents from other developing countries also working for INEX. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0400 GMT 11 Jul 77 OW]

CSO: 5500

SRI LANKA

BRIEFS

ASIAN TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK--Sri Lanka will be fully linked with West Asia and other Asian countries through the Asian Telecommunication Network by 1979. Once this linkup is complete, Telex, telegrams, overseas telephones as well as other modes of communications will not only be faster, but cheaper among the countries involved in the project. With the linkup, messages will go directly from the source to the receiving end instead of passing through (?various) communication channels most of which are controlled by more developed countries. This network will also lessen transmission time by about 1 hour. [Text] [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Jul 77 BK]

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

RADIO WEATHER SERVICE--The Meteorological Department of the Communications Ministry plans to set up within 6 months an AM and FM radio station to broadcast weather reports and warnings for fishermen as well as ocean liners, ministry sources reported. The radio system will be changed from high frequencies to satellite communications for radio teletype circuits on a point-to-point basis between Bangkok and Hong Kong and Bangkok and Tokyo, the sources said. They said automatic telephones will be installed at the weather forecast division to give the public and governmental units information about daily weather conditions. [Excerpt] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 29 Jun 77 p 2 BK]

SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM--The minister attached to the prime minister's office, Dusit Siriwan, at 1400 yesterday presided over the 6th meeting of the Board of the Mass Communications Authority of Thailand at Government House. The meeting considered the implementation of satellite system for Thailand's mass communications and was informed that its subcommittee appointed by the board chairman on 23 June had held five rounds of discussions on this project from 27 June to 6 July. The subcommittee believes that this satellite system project can be applied in the television and radio broadcasting throughout the country within 20 months. The meeting approved the subcommittee's proposal to use this mass communications system and has entrusted the Mass Communications Authority of Thailand, as well as the Post and Telegraph Department and the Public Relations Department, to implement the project. The meeting continued to consider topics pertaining to mass communications until 1730 hours. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 8 Jul 77 BK]

CSO: 5500

HUNGARY

EQUIPMENT OF INTERSPUTNYIK STATION BEING INSTALLED

Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 8 Jul 77 p 9

[Excerpts] Construction of the building which will house the communications equipment of Hungary's Intersputnyik station at Taliandorogd was recently completed. The project was begun a bare 2 years ago and has now reached the stage at which the communications equipment is being assembled and installed. The circular two-story transmitting building which has a diameter of 30 meters has been completed. This will house complex communications equipment the most sensitive of which will be located in air-conditioned rooms. The technical services building which is connected to the transmitting building houses equipment for power supply, generating, heating and the water system. There are also storage rooms, offices and social rooms.

This establishment which is unique to Hungary is a product of the cooperation of 25 enterprises. Soviet, Czech and Hungarian specialists using special cranes lifted the parabolic antenna which has a diameter of 12 meters and a mounting weighing in excess of 50 tons into position. The communications equipment for all existing stations of this kind came from the Soviet Union, which assisted in their construction.

According to Ferenc Valter, director of the Central Investment Bureau of the Posts, calibration of the equipment at Taliandorogd will begin in September. Test operation of the ground station is to begin in November, and plans call for putting the new facility into operation at the end of the year. This will permit establishment of direct telephonic and television connection between Hungary and the other members of the Intersputnyik Organization.

In its initial configuration, the system will consist of one television, two radio and 100 telephonic channels operating with the aid of satellites. During the first stage, 12 telephone circuits will operate in addition to the television and radio connections. The number of telephone channels is expected to be the first to increase significantly.

CSO: 5500

YUGOSLAVIA

PREPARATION FOR RADIO, TELEVISION CONFERENCE

Belgrade TANJUG in English 1807 GMT 12 Jul 77 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, 12 Jul, TANJUG--The Yugoslav Federal Committee of Information had a meeting today to discuss the platform of Yugoslav Radio and Television for the forthcoming Conference of Radio Broadcasting Organizations of the Nonaligned Countries, to be held in Sarajevo from 27 to 30 October.

The members of the committee said that this first meeting of the Nonaligned Countries Radio Broadcasting Organizations will be very important to the further strengthening and deepening of cooperation among the nonaligned countries in the sphere of news reporting, particularly in radio and television. This position has been explained by the inexhaustible technical and technological possibilities offered by these two media, and by fast and effective spread of news about the overall development of the nonaligned countries, their better becoming familiar and rapprochement.

At the meeting, it was pointed out that the conference in Sarajevo is expected to establish the paths and trace ways and manners of concrete cooperation among the nonaligned countries' radio and television organizations.

The members of the committee emphasized that the elimination of the differences in the development of the radio and broadcasting infrastructure by equitable cooperation and solidarity among all the nonaligned countries, is one of the cornerstones of future fruitful and comprehensive cooperation in this sphere. At the same time, the forthcoming meeting will be a step further in the development of equitable relations in the world's news reporting system. In this respect, the nonaligned countries will continue striving for the strengthening and deepening of cooperation on the bilateral plane, and seek solutions for the questions of mutual interest to all of them. Above all, taking as a starting point the national interest of every member, as well as the questions important to cooperation in a broader, international sphere.

CSO: 5500

YUGOSLAVIA

'TANJUG' MEDIUM-TERM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM APPROVED

Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1625 GMT 24 Jun 77 LD

[Text] Belgrade--The program for the medium-term development of TANJUG from 1978 to 1982 was the subject of discussion today at the session of the Federal Committee for Information, chaired by Muhamed Berberovic. In a broad and detailed discussion the members of the committee approved the basic program and political orientation of TANJUG for the coming period.

The session is reported to have emphasized that the development of TANJUG should be viewed within the framework of the integral Yugoslav system of information circulation as a whole and the system of information circulation in each republic and province. The organization and cadre and technical strengthening of the agency, and in particular of the provincial and republican editorial boards, is a matter of interest to all those involved in the work and development of TANJUG.

The program for the agency's development envisages modernization, computerization and the provision of work conditions which will enable the fast and continuous flow of information to all TANJUG press agencies at home and abroad.

It was also stressed that through this program, and in particular through the raising of TANJUG'S technical base to a higher level, a faster, more all-round and better quality inflow of information from abroad and distribution of information from within the country will be made possible. The fact was stressed that an important affirmation of TANJUG's work in this respect has already been achieved, especially within the framework of the non-aligned countries' press agencies pool.

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YUGOSLAVIA

BRIEFS

RADIO, TV ASSEMBLY SESSION--Ljubljana --The Assembly of Yugoslav Radio and Television held a session in Ljubljana today with Mirko Popovic in the chair, at which it adopted its work program up to the end of this year. Particular stress is laid in the program on the need to speed up the constitutional transformation of Yugoslav radio and television and bring it into line with the intentions of the law on associated labor. A platform was also submitted for the Conference of the Radio and Television Organizations of the Nonaligned countries, which will be held in Sarajevo from 27 to 30 October. The assembly also analyzed the results of the preparatory meetings in Belgrade and Amman and recommended that all Yugoslav radio and television centers should involve themselves fully in the preparations for the conference. [Text] [Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2103 GMT 14 Jul 77 LD]

DELEGATION TO INDIA--A delegation of Yugoslav radio and television has had talks in New Delhi on cooperation in the field of radio and television as part of the preparations for the forthcoming meetings of radio and television representatives of nonaligned countries to be held shortly in Jordan and Yugoslavia "with the aim of expanding the exchange of information in the news agencies pool to these media." [Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 16 Jun 77 p 4 AU]

DELEGATION TO VENEZUELA--A delegation of the Yugoslav radio and television headed by Franko Vinter, director of Zagreb radio and television, has arrived on a visit to Venezuela as part of the preparations for the conference of representatives of radio and television stations of non-aligned countries to be held in Sarajevo in October. [Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 22 Jun 77 p 4 AU]

CSO: 5500

BRAZIL

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES REPORTED

New Policy for Telecommunications Sector Advocated

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 May 77 p 20

[Text] Sao Paulo (O GLOBO)--The only correct solution for the problems of the sector will be a change in the orientation of the government, that is, a reconsideration of the reasons that led to the cuts this year and could also cause cuts in coming years. We are sure that the Minister of Communications and the Brazilian Telecommunications Corporations [Telebras] also consider the cuts imposed on them as being very large, and in addition to everything, unnecessary. The fact is well known that the Ministry of Communications, as well as the companies of the Telebras group, have possibilities of raising the necessary resources on the national or international financial market to maintain a minimum rate growth. The companies of the Telebras group are really self-sufficient in this matter and are independent as far as receiving funds from the Federal Government is concerned. Why then is not that type of thinking reconsidered, maintaining an acceptable rate of growth although inferior to original plans?

This question, asked by Siemens of Brazil, one of the principal suppliers of telephone and telecommunications equipment, reveals that the opinion of manufacturing companies of the sector did not change after the speech by Minister of Planning Reis Velloso Friday night in answer to the greetings from the president of the Brazilian Electro-Electronic Industry Association [Abinee], Manoel da Costa Santos. The manufacturers believe that the government did not touch on the crux of the problem and it seeks to ignore some questions such as the possibilities of unemployment. The Ericsson company, for example, says that it sent the Ministry of Labor, at its request, the changes in the level of employment in the companies:

a year ago there were 11,082 employees; in December 1976 there were 10,971 and on 30 April there were 9,835 employees. And it adds: "We are reducing our orders in proportion to our manufacturing schedule and our great problem now in that field is to postpone or cancel part of the orders already made."

Much Change

In addition to the Siemens suggestion on how the government could proceed, there are proposals from Ericsson do Brasil, perhaps one of the companies that will be most affected by reductions in investments because it began its expansion plan at the beginning of the decade of the seventies with completion forecast for 1982, when it will have an installed capacity of more than a million telephone lines. With the world oil crisis, difficulties in importing in 1975 and 1976, it decided to reduce its plans, and today its installed industrial capacity is 570,000 lines per year. Telebras has not yet released its contracting plans for this year or the forecast of orders to be made, and the plans of all the companies involved can only be made after the government makes a determination.

At any rate, Ericsson believes that the funds retained by the National Telecommunications Fund should be released to the National Development Fund, thus allowing the integral application of the Telecommunications Fund to the telecommunications sector itself. The government should also invest in the sector to free telecommunications from the high financial costs of loans for the sector so that the value of orders can be used in effective investments. The government reduced investments in telecommunications but does not participate directly in these investments and it established the following appropriations.

In investments:

1976--15.84 billion cruzeiros

1977--20.6 billion cruzeiros.

Capital outlays

1976--3.33 billion cruzeiros

1977--5.24 million cruzeiros

The 30-percent increase in investments is nominal and for that reason there was a real decline due to inflation. "For the rest," declared the Ericsson Company, "perhaps the time has come for the government to study the number of manufacturers located in the country."

Painting a picture of the sector, Siemens, "like other companies of the sector, shows concern because in addition to the general volume of orders having been reduced on the initiative of the Ministry of Communications and Telebras from 700,000 terminals per year, as was foreseen by the II National Development Plan, to 500,000 terminals per year, the new cuts imposed on the sector by the government appear to lead to a situation

where not even that reduced plan can be reached, at least not in 1977. Up to now no orders have been made and if the situation continues, there will be serious difficulties in maintaining a proper production planning, and therefore, an economic-financial balance that is sufficient for the operation of the companies."

Siemens prefers not to use the expression "frustration" with respect to this situation but it guarantees that "together with other firms of the sector we have alerted the authorities, about the national telecommunications system or about the situation of the manufacturing companies. Up to now there is no willingness on the part of the government to consider the resolution of the problem, taking into consideration the position of the industries as a variable. And thus we could be led to an even more difficult situation than the present one."

According to the Ericsson company, which details the consequences of non-discrimination in orders and the decline in the volume of orders at the short and medium range for the concessionaires-as well as for the industries of the sector, in the short range, the telephone companies will be forced to reschedule the contracts already signed in order to comply with their new financial programs and will have to postpone their contracting plans for coming years. In the medium range, it is expected that once more there will be overloading, noisy dialing malfunctions, interurban trunklines that are always busy, longer waits for telephone lines, and the return of the blackmarket in telephones. In the industry, there will be a decline in the industrial rate of growth which will result in increases in costs, dismissal of skilled personnel who were trained for long periods, financial difficulties due to a decline in a cash flow and subsequent indebtedness. In the medium range there will also be the need to train personnel again, when new orders come, with the accompanying costs. At the same time, the industry will be pressured once more to provide quicker service when we all know that to slow down is easy but to speed up requires more time and costs more money."

In the companies which manufacture telephone and telecommunications equipment, the period for manufacturing items is established at 2 years. Thus anything that is contracted for in one year will not be produced until the following year. Based on that premise, therefore, the Ericsson foresees orders of 70 percent of what had been originally forecast. Siemens goes even further and believes that orders will be made only at the end of the year and that due to the long cycles of planning and orders of parts for manufacture, it will be difficult to make a balanced scheduling for 1979 and that in the best of hypothesis this year will be very difficult.

Improve Prospects

The Siemens believes that there will only be good prospects for the

sector if there were to be a reconsideration of the drastic decisions made; Reductions, yes, but within a measure that does not compromise either the balance of the telephone system or the situation of the manufacturing companies. Brazil has a national telecommunications systems that despite having improved much in the past 10 years, does still not satisfy the needs of the country. It is important to understand that this has been with economic growth rates that are relatively high.

"Despite the slowdown that is imposed on the country, telecommunications must grow at least at a minimum rate in order to progress. To maintain the system at a very low rate of growth means we are drawing away even more from the desired telephone balance. In talking to the government we do not have difficulties in explaining our problems and we are always well treated. But what worries us is that while there is a dialog, it is not leading to any solution because it is not enough that the government understands our problems and says that it does. It is necessary that as a result of that understanding, corrective measures be taken. And up to now we have not seen this."

Technology Exchange With Italy To Be Discussed

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 May 77 p 27

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO)--The president of the Societa Finanziaria Telefonica per Azioni, which controls the main interests of the sector of telecommunications in Italy, engineer Giorgio Villa, reported yesterday that the next meeting of the Brazil-Italy Association for Telecommunications Research and Industry will be held in Rio in November, when a policy by the two countries for the sector will be defined in specific terms. With respect to the problem of patents that may result from the agreement, he declared that they will be joint property of Brazil and Italy but that the patents already registered will continue to remain the property of the present holders.

Villa emphasized the importance of a rapprochement between the two countries and accepted the possibility that share control will remain with the Brazilian government. The project now underway began in 1975, when the first steps were taken during a visit by Ministers Azeredo da Silveira and Euclides Quandt de Oliveira to Italy. In April 1976, Italian Minister of Communications Giulio Orlando came to Brazil and defined the line of conduct of the Italian government with respect to the subject "in the aspect of exchanging information with Brazil instead of a pure and simple transfer of technology."

The president of the Societa Finanziaria Telefonica per Azioni said that his company proposed the nationalization of Auso Eletronica e Tele-comunicacoes Ltda, an Italian company operating in Brazil to the Brazilian government.

He explained that the plans of Auso include a production three times greater than present production, but existing infrastructure allows assurance that "when the situation becomes normal, installed capacity will be adequate for needs."

He declared that 1,800 microwave channels will be delivered (ordered by Brazilian Telecommunications Company) by the end of 1978, and that the construction of 960 similar channels will be initiated to be concluded in 1979. He also said that his company has already placed a rural radiotelephone system in operation in Brazil.

8908
CSO: 3001

CUBA

MICROWAVE RELAY NETWORK TO IMPROVE TV RECEPTION

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 16 May 77 p 2

[Article by Ramon Brizuela]

[Text] Our country is eagerly seeking to modernize its communications, and as an example of this we have the province of Pinar del Rio. It was the pioneer in the country's automatic telephone dialing service and was then the first to have a television transmission system using powerful microwaves.

Microwave television transmission is an innovative method of the most advanced technology. It provides optimum service in both audio and video, and thus TV sets receive sharper and more stable images.

Rebroadcast transmissions will thus be gradually replaced throughout the country. This is an archaic method that does not provide the required quality, and the drawbacks of it become most evident in mountainous areas such as the eastern and western regions of our country.

Today

The first section of this network, which will soon encompass the entire nation, was inaugurated on 19 March 1977. It consists of three channels in the Havana-Pinar del Rio direction, two of which are now in service while one remains in reserve.

Ninety percent of the Pinar del Rio area receives a top quality TV signal both in color and black and white. In order to provide this coverage, the network has three repeaters to retransmit signals. One is located in Loma Salon, and the others in Cubanacan and the Guanito heights, where the main station is situated.

A channel is available for the remote control transmission of TV programs as well. This was not the case in the past, and it has become very useful for broadcasting events that are to be reproduced over the national network.

Color TV is to be found in all of the new variety schools in the province, in addition to the people's network in highly visible places such as store windows, hotels and recreation centers.

At present only TV transmissions are being utilized, but in the future the microwaves will be employed for national radio network broadcasts, and a reserve channel is also planned for this service.

Microwaves do not have the drawback of interruptions because of insufficient electrical energy because their batteries allow for 10 hours of service.

All of the equipment is automatized, and thus any irregularity can be detected from the central station in Havana.

Yesterday

TV magnates used to say that Pinar del Rio's topographical features precluded any attempt to set up an efficient television service, but the reality of the situation was that the province, one of the country's most backward and most limited in sources of income, was of no interest to them.

9743
CSO: 3010

CUBA

BARACOA STATION RECEIVES TELEREBELDE TV

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 6 Jun 77 p 1

[Text] Baracoa (AIN)—A new station that will receive color and black and white TV programs broadcast by Tele-Rebelde has begun operating in this municipality thanks to the efforts of workers in the Ministry of Communications.

The facility is located on a mountainous mass known as "Los Guineos" some 18 kilometers from this city, on a 754 foot high tower.

The equipment for national television's Channel 6 is scheduled to enter service in the next few days. It will improve the reception of the channel's transmissions in this area after the required instruments are installed in the Cueva Arriba Station.

8743

CSO: 3010

CUBA

VIDEOTAPE RECORDING, TRANSMISSION PROBLEMS AIRED

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 11 May 77 p 2

[Article by Ricardo Tabares]

[Text] Every day when we get home and watch the TV we comment favorably or unfavorably on the various programs.

"The picture isn't very good today."

"It's because of the antenna."

"No, it's the studio."

"I think that the videotape is defective."

And the term videotape, which has caught on little by little, often winds up with the blame.)

Comparative figures show us that the number of hours transmitted by videotape (color or black and white) in January of this year amounted to 165, and in March it rose to 195 hours, 10 minutes.

Going into further detail, during the first 2 weeks of March there were 59 hours of videotape broadcasts (black and white), whereas in the first 2 weeks of April there were 65 hours, 30 minutes of videotape programs.

But...are all the videotapes bad?

Who's Guilty?

All of the videotapes are not bad. The 66 installments of the soap opera "El Alma Encantada," adventure programs and color broadcasts are proof of it.

It is also true that other videotapes are bad. Whose fault is it? The technical personnel or the program director?

From the technical standpoint, none of them are guilty, but let's proceed step by step to uncover the guilty party.

Voltage And Frequency

We all know that electrical current has two major determining elements: voltage and frequency.

We sometimes hear it said that the voltage is 110 and frequency is 60 cycles a second. But what has this got to do with videotape?

Frequency is one of the aforementioned elements of electrical current used to run videotape machines. If the frequency of 60 cycles/second varies more than 0.3 cycles, then the machine is incapable of operating properly, the electrical and mechanical system is thrown out of whack, and the videotape transmission is defective.

Moreover, if frequency is not stable when the tape is recorded, it will also look bad when broadcast.

The most serious problems occur during peak electricity use hours, since the plant generators are unable to maintain a stable frequency.

Another problem that TV viewers notice on videotapes are the alternating (black and white) horizontal bars that move vertically across the TV screen.

This occurs in other countries as well as in Cuba. It becomes more visible as the incoming signal grows weaker and as the deviation increases from the 60 cycle current.

So if it's a problem of frequency, why do some videotapes look good and others look bad?

This is because of the varieties of videotape machines. The problem programs are the ones which are filmed and recorded overseas using mobile units, which contain equipment that is more manageable and less costly.

The two other types of machines that the Cuban Radio and Television Institute has do not suffer from frequency variation problems and, because of their great size, cannot be transported on mobile units.

The soap opera "El Alma Encantada" is an example of the videotape broadcasts using this equipment, and everyone is familiar with the high quality of the picture.

These two types of equipment are more reliable and offer better technical quality because of their advances, but at the same time they cost more on the market.

Videotape technology, a recent innovation in modern life, is progressing every day, and therefore current problems will be overcome in the future.

CUBA

BRIEFS

TELEVISION TRANSMITTERS--A Communications Ministry team of technicians and workers has installed in the city of Las Tunas two television transmitters with a power of 5 kilowatts with which the deficiencies in the receipt of signals from the provinces of Camaguey and Holguin, respectively, will be eliminated. A national microwave network also was installed in Las Tunas which will improve the quality of black-and-white and color television signals. [Text]
[Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 15 Jul 77 FL]

CSO: 5500

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

MESSAGE ON MENA-SUNA LINK--Prime Minister Mamduh Salim has received a cable from Sudanese Vice President and Prime Minister ar-Rashid at-tahir on the occasion of signing the cooperation agreement between MENA and SUNA and on the opening of the direct transmission telecommunications station for the two agencies between Khartoum and Cairo. [Text] [Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0015 GMT 18 Jul 77 LD]

GULF NEWS AGENCY TESTS--?begin test transmissions this Saturday. The tests, which will last 2 weeks, will be transmitted from the agency's permanent headquarters in Bahrain. The agency will cover news of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and the UAE. It has been agreed that the national news agencies in some of these states will operate as tributaries to the Gulf News Agency. It is known that the decision to establish the Gulf News Agency was adopted at the First Conference of the Gulf States Information Ministers, which was held in Abu Dhabi in January 1976. The Second Conference of the Information Ministers, which was held in Riyadh around the beginning of this year, elected Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad as controller general of the agency and appointed Nabil al-Hummar of Bahrain as deputy director. The Bahraini Information Minister announced in the middle of last month that the Gulf News Agency had established relations with some international news agencies. The Gulf News Agency will be the fourth agency in the Gulf area. The others are the Saudi News Agency, the Qatar News Agency and the UAE News Agency. The Kuwait News Agency is expected to become operational before the end of the year. [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1658 GMT 8 Jul 77 NC]

CSO: 5500

EGYPT

PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES TELEPHONE, RAILROAD PROJECTS

Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jun 77 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Mamduh Salim today inaugurated the two-way railroad line between Sidi Jabir and Abu Qir, and the Sidi Bishr central telephone exchange, which includes 6,000 lines. This exchange will have 40,000 lines by 1980 and will cost 6.25 million pounds.

Speaking on the occasion, Mamduh Salim said that Egypt is waging the battle to achieve liberation and construction. The prime minister denounced attempts to cast doubts on Egyptian achievements. He added that President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat's directives call for paying attention to basic construction and public utilities as these have a great effect on productivity and services projects. He said that the government is committed to implement all projects in accordance with a fixed timetable.

He said that railroad and telecommunications investments amounted, for the first time in Egypt, to more than 168 million pounds to meet the problems of the two sectors. The government is making sure that factories will operate to full production capacity. He said that the Abu Qir fertilizer plant's daily production will be worth \$180,000 in addition to the production of the Talkha factory in the second stage and the results of the operation to full capacity of the Kima fertilizer plant in Aswan.

Mamduh Salim said that companies will be formed to manage the railroad and telephones. Each company will be in charge of a specific area and will be allocated its revenue and independent budget to create competition among the companies and to give opportunities for deploying the most modern technology. These companies will be established in the near future. The success of each company's operation will be soundly assessed. He called for expansion in establishing public telephone offices.

Mamduh Salim then spoke about the relation between the administrative revolution and the raising of the standard of services and increased productivity. He said that Egyptian technology must be created through acquiring practical know-how by using modern methods in all fields.

The inauguration ceremonies were attended by Transport and Communications Minister Engineer 'Abd al-Fattah 'Abdallah, Industry Minister Engineer 'Isa Shahin, the governor of Alexandria and officials of the railroad and telecommunications authorities.

CSO: 5500

LEBANON

BRIEFS

UNDERWATER COMMUNICATIONS CABLE DAMAGED--Beirut, 17 July--The underwater cable for telephone communications between Beirut and Europe and the Arab countries was damaged during the clashes which occurred last night and this morning between the armed organizations in the Palestinian Sabra Camp. The PLO is exerting diligent efforts to end the clashes in which light and heavy weapons were used. [Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 17 Jul 77 NC]

CSO: 5500

ANGOLA

CULTURE COUNCIL TO CONTROL ALL PRIVATE RADIO STATIONS

Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jun 77 PA

[Text] The National Joint Commissariat of the Popular Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] today urged the people to struggle in order to achieve national unity and exhorted them not to allow into their midst again those elements which sought to divide them.

A document issued in Luanda, signed by Commander [Dino Matros), refers to the various ethnic groups which make up the country's population and points to the need to gather all these forces because history shows that in order to free oneself from oppression and to fight the enemy, it is necessary to achieve national unity.

The FAPLA National Joint Commissariat reiterates the officers' and rank-and-file's trust in the political line followed by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola and Acknowledges President Agostinho Neto as the sole leader.

Meanwhile, the "Popular Liberation Movement's First Congress" popular brigades, made up of some 50,000 male and female urban workers, have been created in Angola in support of the current national coffee harvest campaign. Coffee is one of the most important products of that independent African state.

It has also been announced that the Angolan National Culture Council will gain control of all the private radio stations that still exist in that African country. The announcement was made in Luanda by Antonio Jacinto, secretary of the National Culture Council.

CSO: 5500

USSR

BRIEFS

SATELLITE TRANSMISSION OF COLUMNS--Moscow, 8 Jul, Ceteka--Soviet Communications launched transmissions of newspaper columns by means of the satellite based "Orbita" System from Moscow to Khabarovsk, Far East, a distance of 6,000 kilometres. This link provides for exact and quick transmission and eliminates corrections which were necessary during the conventional ground transmission of newspaper pages every 200-300 kilometres. The transmission is permanently monitored in the control centre in Moscow. [Text] [Prague CTK in English 1505 GMT 8 Jul 77 LD]

CSO: 5500

FRENCH TELEPHONE SALES TO FINLAND NOTED

Paris L'USINE NOUVELLE in French 16 Jun 77 pp 47-48

/Article by Helene Pichenot: "Telephone News: French Breakthrough in Finland"/

/Text/ Finland's choice of the CGCT /General Telephone Construction Company/ central telephone exchange is proof not only of the equipment's technical excellence but also of this French company's aggressiveness in the area of exports.

The first Metaconta electronic central telephone exchange to be set up on Finnish soil, manufactured by the CGCT and ordered in 1972 by the telephone company of the city of Vaasa, was just inaugurated by Jacques Chazelle, French ambassador to Helsinki, in the presence of Gerard Thery, general director of telecommunications. It is quite a feat to have penetrated a Scandinavian market, where the dominance of the Swedish company Ericsson is strongly felt (40 percent of the Finnish telephone system, on an equal footing with Siemens) and where the demands of the users and the diversity of the system (there are 36 telephone companies operating in Finland) demand a complex and sophisticated type of software. The Metaconta central telephone exchange in Vaasa will offer the most advanced services to its users: shortened telephone numbers, automatic transfer to other exchanges and automatic redialing of busy lines....

But besides these technical achievements, Marc Lauvergeon, president of the CGCT, had another reason to be satisfied with the Finnish order, as it proved to the French telecommunications directors that the company was being aggressive in the area of exports. The CGCT has put into service or is now in the process of installing 9 Metaconta semi-electronic public central telephone exchanges abroad (Mexico, Colombia, Finland, Morocco...) and 5 in France. In addition to this, it has installed 35 private telephone exchanges in France and 1 in the USSR. This subsidiary of ITT is way ahead of other French companies in the area of exporting switching equipment. It has thus met the criteria of Gerard Thery, who said: "I cannot conceive of making a profitable business out of equipment which is sold only on the domestic

market." In other words, the more the CGCT exports, the greater are its domestic possibilities.

Marc Lauvergeon also brilliantly demonstrated that his company--like all other French companies--was supported by the government in the area of exports. That support is important to him with respect to the ITT group which, since it was forced to transfer LMT [expansion unknown] to Thomson, seems to be showing a disturbing tendency to put its Belgian subsidiary BTM [expansion unknown] first, especially since its "French sisters" are threatened with nationalization.

The CGCT, however, is responsible for two important export areas, which are, at least in principle, "protected": Africa and Latin America. That has not prevented it from going into other European countries (Ireland and Finland) and from seizing opportunities (India) where it can. The company is, however, aiming at markets which are broad enough so that, once it has made its breakthrough into a country, it will be able to extend its telephone systems: in Finland, the CGCT is already installing its second Metacona telephone exchange in Kuopio.

But the present economic situation in Finland has temporarily forced a halt to any new orders. During 1976, Finnish industrial investments fell off by 23.5 percent, and production only increased by 1.5 percent.

Increase in Domestic Demand

The main consequence of this recession is that foreign purchases have been restrained and, in order to help local industry along, the Bank of Finland has been refusing all requests for credit exceeding 6 months made by Finnish firms for the purchase of foreign equipment. Because of this, Finnish imports declined in 1976. It seems, however, that 1977 will present a better picture, mainly due to an increase in foreign demand. In 1976, Finnish exports had already increased by more than 20 percent, with timber and timber product exports increasing by 30 percent and machinery exports increasing by 28 percent. According to budget estimates, the GNP should increase by 5 percent in 1977 (against 0.5 percent in 1976) and inflation should be brought down to 10 percent (instead of 15 percent). It should be pointed out that France has only a modest share of Finnish imports: 2.7 percent, compared to 17 percent for the USSR, 16 percent for Sweden, 14 percent for the FRG and 9 percent for Great Britain.

The French breakthrough in the telephone industry is thus very much appreciated by French government authorities, especially since CIT-Alcatel, a subsidiary of the CGE [General Electricity Company], which has worked for the past 5 or 6 years with the Finnish company Nokia, is about to sign an agreement for the transfer of the production license and marketing rights for its timed frequency switcher unit--the all-electronic E 10.

The Finnish Postal and Telecommunications Service has approved the system, and Nokia signed an agreement with Televa (telephone company) to set up a

joint subsidiary, Telephona, which will manufacture the switcher units. Finnish postal and telecommunications representatives recently came to Paris and asked CIT-Alcatel for a maximum of concessions on the price of the license. Thus, the French telephone industry has become one of foreign trade's war-horses in investing the Finnish market.

11935

CSO: 5500

FRANCE

BRIEFS

PRIVATE RADIO JAMMED--The private Montpellier radio station [?file bleue] tried to broadcast at 0700 [0500 GMT] this morning from the 12th floor of the [?Polygone] commercial tower, on whose roof an antenna had been set up. There was 1 minute of broadcast from 0716-0717 [0516-0517 GMT] on a waveband belonging to the armed forces, which was jammed by an uninterrupted whistling. The organizers of the station intend to lodge a complaint before the courts, but in fact only Parliament can decide to end the broadcasting monopoly. [Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 12 Jul 77 LD]

CSO: 5500

NORWAY

NORDIC TV SATELLITE QUESTION DISCUSSED

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 28 May 77 p 25

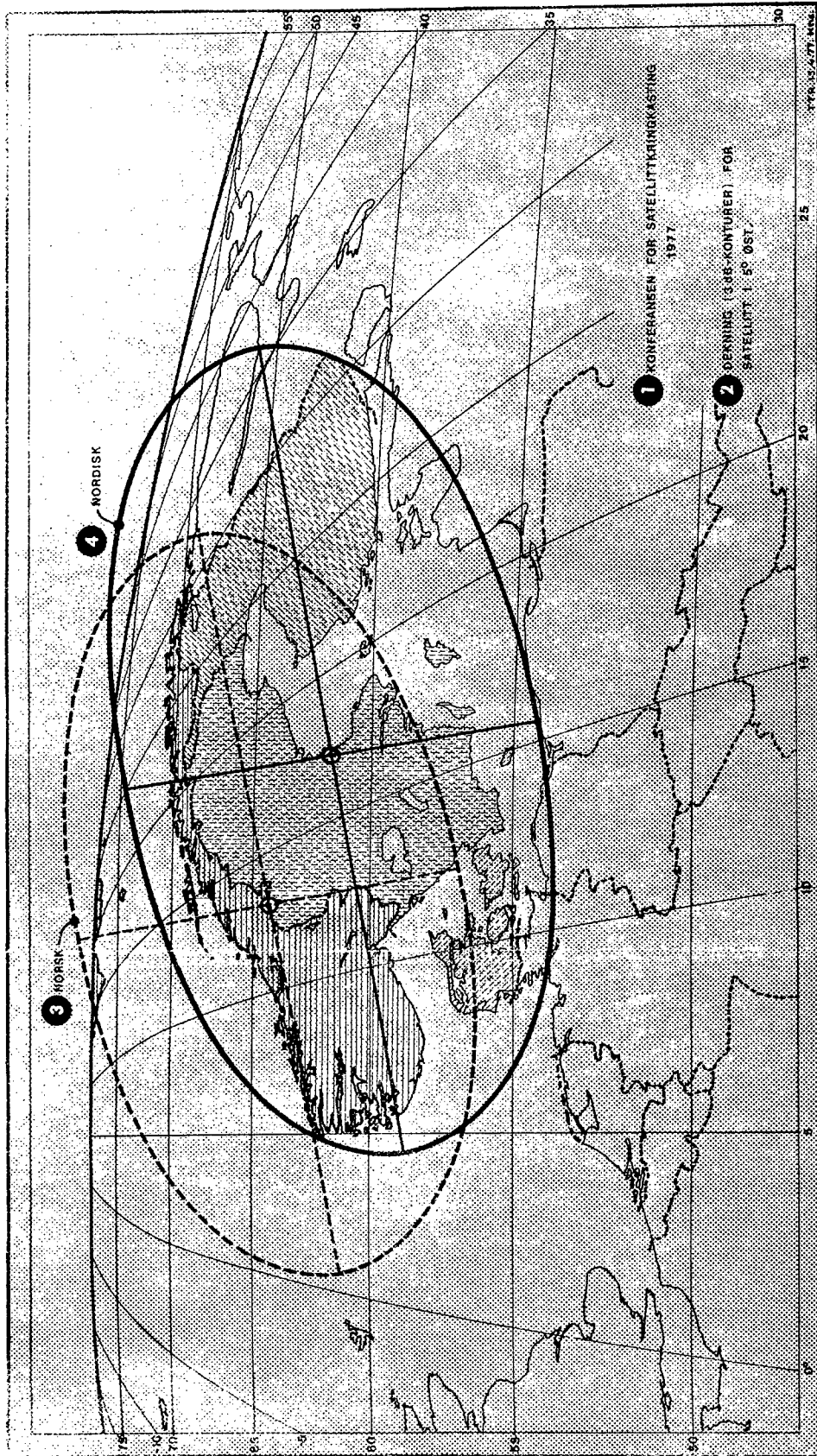
[Text] It will probably be at least 10 years before the first direct broadcast communications satellite appears on the European horizon. To be sure, individual countries have been given frequencies, and they have been delegated "parking spaces" for satellites in the equatorial orbit, but for the present, no country in Europe has set a date for the introduction of this form of broadcasting service. For the time being, we must be satisfied with the earth-bound net for the distribution of radio and television.

"In the Age of the TV Satellite: Large Parts of Europe in the Norwegian Television Room," by Knut Lovstuhagen.

"The way it looks today, 1985 seems to be the earliest date for operational installation of communication satellites that broadcast directly to home receivers," says Director Per Mortensen of the Television Directorate to Aftenposten.

Technically, it is possible to build such satellites already today, but they must go through a very thorough testing period before they can be put to use in the ordinary transmission of radio and television. 1981-82 has been designated as a realistic date for the introduction of radio and television service by satellite. But in any case, the Scandinavian television administrations are of the opinion that in such an important matter, a test satellite should be sent up first.

The European Space Agency (ESA) has plans to launch such a test satellite for direct transmission of broadcast programs in 1981-82. Norway is not a member of the organization--the only Scandinavian country that is not by the way--but it is likely that we will still take part in the testing program which will take place with the satellite. The results of these tests will then form the basis for work on further planning of a satellite for national and Scandinavian distribution of radio and television programs.



The area of coverage of the Scandinavian satellite. The dotted ellipse is the area covered by the Norwegian beam, the solid line indicates areas to be covered by a Scandinavian beam. In the peripheries of the ellipses the signal strength is half of what it is in the center, which means that viewers, for example in England, will be able to receive Norwegian TV if they obtain extra receiving equipment.

- Key: 1. Conference for Satellite Broadcasting, 1977.
 2. Coverage (3 dB Contours) for satellite 1 5 degrees east.
 3. Norwegian
 4. Scandinavian

In a frequency distribution conference in Geneva at the beginning of the year, the Scandinavian countries were given frequencies for up to five television channels. The way plans are today, each country will have three channels for national use while two will be Scandinavian channels. This means that a person in Norway with plenty of time will be able to receive a total of 11 TV programs from a satellite stationed at 5 degrees east longitude over the equator.

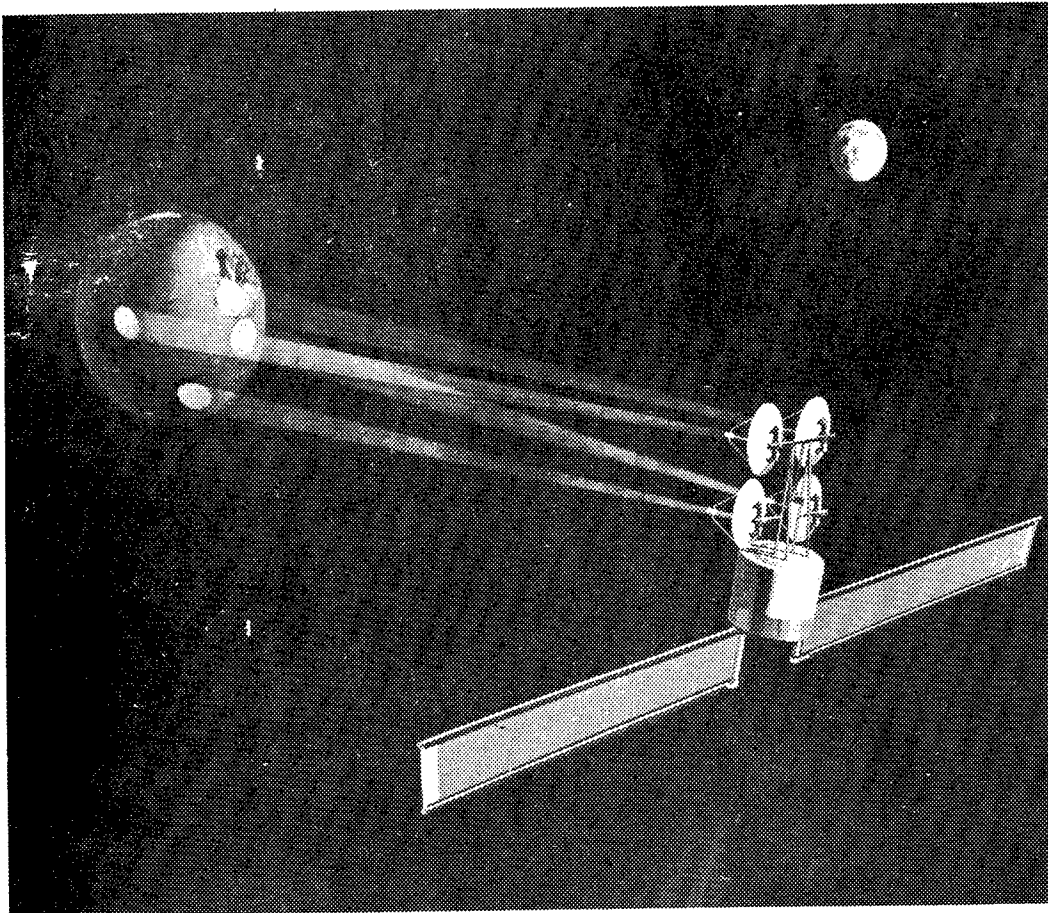
But it can be more than that. After a while, when the countries down in Europe send up their satellites, a person here in Norway will most probably be able to turn the channel selector and receive TV programs from a series of these countries. Even if one tries to concentrate the signal beams from the satellites as well as possible over the area that is to be covered, it cannot be done so that the beams only cover definite geographic areas. There will be the so-called "spill over" of signals, which about a half million Norwegian television viewers with Swedish antennas already make use of today.

"For the time being, technology will limit what we will be able to receive from foreign TV programs," says Director Mortensen. "At any rate, with today's technology, when one is talking about common antenna equipment, one can imagine a limit of 12-15 channel possibilities. But farther in the future there is the thought of fiber optical solutions which will give countless selection possibilities."

"Some politicians have recently expressed concern for the 'spiritual and cultural pollution' of Norway which they say will follow in the wake of TV satellites. What can be done to control the flood of programs to which we will probably be exposed from countries down in Europe?"

"In my opinion it will be extremely difficult to set any limits to what people will be able to receive from other European communication satellites. As a standard solution we have given ourselves a receiving antenna, a plate-shaped thing with a diameter of about 90 centimeters. Even this little antenna will be able to receive broadcasts meant for areas outside of Scandinavia. Two such antennas are necessary, as one will only take in the Scandinavian satellites. With larger antennas and with more sensitive equipment--naturally at a higher cost--the range will become even larger," says Director Mortensen, who personally does not see any possibility today of introducing limitations on the basis of the type of programs.

We will apparently see British, French, German, Dutch and Belgian programs on our TV-screens in a few years--particularly in the southern part of the country. These countries lie so far north that there is reason to calculate "spill over" of signals from satellites that are stationed over the earth's central belt, and some East European countries' satellites will possibly also beam their signals in our direction.



Direct-broadcast communications satellite with antenna beams which reach limited areas on earth. In this case the satellite is serving countries on several continents--the development is going in the direction of each country having its own satellite.

Satellite Danger for the Family: Langslet: Norwegians Make Problems for Themselves with Everything New

"When the time comes that it is necessary to take a stand on the introduction of a system of Scandinavian satellite television, it is reasonable to assume that Norwegian authorities will show positive interest in the plan," says Lars Roar Langslet, Chairman of the Committee for Church and Education in the Legislature. Langslet admits that problems can arise, particularly when it comes to financing such a system. "But I see the problems that have already arisen in public debate as superficial. I take them to be an expression of the Norwegians' unstoppable drive to make worries and difficulties in connection with everything possible that is new," says Langslet.

"When television was to be introduced into Norway, there was no end to the warnings that it would ruin family life, Norwegian culture, etc.," said Langslet to Aftenposten. "But in reality there has been probably no other single factor that has contributed so much to unite the family in our splintered times as just this television. Then when color television came we heard that among other things it would ruin the NRK's Norwegian National Broadcasting Company's economy. But in truth the NRK experienced a unimagined prosperity undreamed of afterwards. Developments have gone directly opposite to what all the 'Cassandras' predicted," says Langslet, who feels that the drive to make problems for themselves must be connected to the psyche of the Norwegian national character.

"Some people also feel that it is wrong for the viewers to be able to practice a so-called 'slalom movement' to find the entertainment programs on various stations. I cannot imagine what it is that gives a political elite any natural right to exercise authority over other people's taste in such a matter. Some seem to argue that the NRK somehow is setting up a program that is proper for the public's health--something like school breakfast--and that the public will suffer if they don't follow it. If they, for example, turn off Bjorn Nilsen and watch a show on Swedish television instead, it is believed that they somehow might harm their souls," Langslet remarked. "My sympathies are on the side of the viewers if they decide to act in this manner. It is moreover an arrogant thought that NRK is the only Scandinavian broadcasting company which broadcasts programs of value."

Langslet emphasizes that it is the lack of choice in television programs that is objectionable--not the opposite. In the long run he feels that satellite technology will be developed in such a manner that it will be just as normal to tune in TV broadcasts from various corners of the world as it is today to receive radio broadcasts. Langslet considers such a development to be generally valuable, even if it implies both good and bad just as everything else does.

"Already today there are of course a large number of Norwegian viewers who can receive Swedish TV channels," Langslet points out. "I can not see that great problems will arise if they can also see programs from Denmark and Finland even if people will turn to programs from these countries a good bit less because of language difficulties."

Moreover, Langslet has the impression that we will soon have reached a "saturation point" in the time that television takes of the individual's everyday life. Consequently, more choices will not mean that people will spend a corresponding additional amount of time sitting before the screen. Langslet has not found any basis for the opinion that Scandinavian TV satellite connection would threaten family life.

Today only Finland has advertisements on television among the Scandinavian countries. Langslet does not believe that advertisements will create any

great problem, among other things because language difficulties will not make it a usual thing for Norwegian viewers to watch Finnish television. "It would be a different matter if Swedish television were to begin with advertisements. This could lead to Norwegian firms beginning to advertise on Swedish television in a big way. But the problem is hypothetical: Not long ago the Swedes refused advertising on television. I also think it is an advantage to keep it out."

The NRK's expenses in the introduction of Scandinavian satellite television will at first be concerned with renting a satellite. Langslet says that NRK's expansion programs that have priority must continue so that they can be completed according to plan. They consist of an expansion of listening and viewing possibilities in our own country, district broadcasts, program II in the radio, new short-wave and long-wave transmitters, etc. Moreover, Langslet thinks that it would be meaningless at the present time to attempt calculations for viewers' costs for additional equipment for receivers. Technology develops so rapidly that such equipment can sink very quickly in price before the time comes to purchase it, he emphasizes.

The Christian People's Party has expressed some concern about the possibility of Norwegian satellite television--along with Dagbladet. However, Langslet points to Lars Korvald's position statement that the party has not taken a definite stand on the matter. He does not believe that the question will create any difficulties for a possible non-socialist government.

Will satellite television signify a threat against Norwegian cultural life, as has been claimed? "We are faced with a general pressure from outside," says Langslet, who does not believe that the present proposal for Scandinavian satellite television will have any effect one way or another. "It is for me an absurd thought that it, for example, would threaten our language if a few more Norwegians got to see Swedish and Danish TV now and then," he says.

"As a point of departure, I support the liberal line that Prime Minister Nordli proclaimed in his recent speech, even if much more can be said on the question that he did with his few sentences," says the Chairman of the Committee for Church and Education in the legislature, Lars Roar Langslet.

"Position on Scandinavian Satellite TV Ready in June"

A Scandinavian Committee of Foreign Secretaries which has debated the question of satellite television will state its position in early June, says Department Head Johs. Aanderaa, of the Department of Church and Education, to Aftenposten. The position will be debated by a Scandinavian Cultural Ministry in a meeting in Reykjavik at the end of the same month. As is known, the question is whether the five countries will cooperate on a satellite which makes it possible for the citizens of the individual Scandinavian countries to receive TV programs from the other countries in Scandinavia. According to the present plans, programs from other European countries will be screened for Norwegian viewers, says Aanderaa.

The position of the Committee of foreign secretaries will be evaluated in the usual manner in the various Scandinavian countries. In time, the matter will be sent to the legislature, says Aanderaa. The Department is also preparing the nomination of its own mass media committee. The committee will in its work have to deal with the question of satellite television. But it is doubtful if the committee will have its position ready so that it can have significance for legislative handling of the matter. Aanderaa thinks that the legislature will take a position on the question of satellite television in the course of the next two to three years.

To the question of what would happen if Norway rejected satellite television and the other Scandinavian countries accepted it, Aanderaa answers that this alternative is not being discussed. The goal is to reach a common Scandinavian solution. In the meantime, it will not be possible to screen Norwegian viewers from Scandinavian satellite broadcasts: every viewer will be able to receive the programs if the party concerned gets himself the necessary additional equipment for his TV set. This additional equipment is estimated to cost from three to five thousand crowns.

In January of this year there was an international agreement on the distribution of wave lengths for use of TV satellites, says Aanderaa. This agreement presupposes screening off of the various areas from broadcasts from other areas. Only in border areas in Scandinavia will it be possible to receive satellite broadcasts from other European countries.

The Scandinavian committee of foreign ministers will deal with the cultural-political questions which arise with a possible introduction of a common Scandinavian satellite television. Aanderaa mentioned a couple of the problem areas that will be dealt with in the coming debate. The one concerns possibilities for Norwegian programs to succeed in competition with the foreign ones. From other deliberations we have, at present, a series of governmental efforts to further the spread of Norwegian culture--purchase orders for Norwegian literature is one of the best known examples. Aanderaa will not speculate on what should be done to ensure the competitive efficiency of Norwegian TV programs. But he thinks that the question must be seen in connection with the perspectives which arise with the commercial exploitation of TV cassettes.

Another problem concerns advertisements in television from other countries. At present only Finland has such advertisements.

If the Norwegian authorities decide for Scandinavian satellite television, it will still be a long time before it can be accomplished. Aanderaa suggests that it will not be in effect before the mid-1980's at the earliest.

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