

## EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION

1972 has been an exceptionally busy year for the television services participating in Eurovision program exchanges, which included the Turkish Broadcasting network, T.R.T., for the first time. The principal event of the year was undoubtedly the coverage of the Summer Olympic Games in Munich, Federal Republic of Germany, which occupied the television screens of the World during the end of August and the beginning of September. As well as the sporting events, the tragic massacre of the Israeli athletes gave an exceptional importance to this occasion and was responsible for extensive modification of the original plans. Among the other major occasions were the two Apollo missions to the Moon, from which color television pictures of greatly-improved technical quality were broadcast to a world-wide audience.

The audience for color television transmissions expanded rapidly during the year, both in the countries where regular transmissions were well-established, and in those where the color service had just begun. The latter included Yugoslavia, and Norway, where PAL transmissions started in January, and Luxembourg, which became the second E.B.U. Active Member to adopt the SECAM system, in November. Most of the remaining members with monochrome services do not expect to introduce color transmissions very soon, although several are undertaking staff training using closed-circuit equipment. The principal statistics of the color-television services of the E.B.U. Active Members are given in Table I.

The duration of color transmissions also showed a considerable increase, and several networks are now operating almost exclusively in color. As can be seen from Table II, which gives the principal characteristics of the television services participating in Eurovision via terrestrial circuits, the total weekly duration of transmissions has not changed greatly except in the case of the newer networks. This is due both to the wide-

spread use of the transmitting facilities for educational broadcasts during daytime hours, and the need to ensure that the growth of expenditure does not exceed that of income during an inflationary period. The newer networks are also conspicuous on account of the number of transmitters in use, notably in Greece and Turkey. Additional transmitters radiating older program services are generally low-power rebroadcast units, except in the case of the United Kingdom where high-power UHF stations are being provided in order to give nation-wide coverage of 625-line color signals in preparation for abandoning the duplicate 405-line monochrome transmissions in the VHF bands. At the end of 1972, a total of 8,478 main and rebroadcast transmitters, including 4,094 in the UHF band, were in operation in the countries listed in Table II.

Two new program services are included in the Table; the third national network of the Office de Radiodiffusion-télévision Française in France was opened on 31 December 1972, with SECAM color transmissions in the UHF band, whereas the T.R.T. network provides Turkey's first television service, with monochrome transmissions in the VHF bands. Although the T.R.T. has been providing a limited service in the neighborhood of the capital, Ankara, for several years, it was only during 1972 that the first provincial transmitters and international vision circuits became operational.

There were several other important developments in the field of international television transmission during the year, including the extensive coverage of the Olympic events at Sapporo and Munich, at which the multilateral programs alone had total durations of 43 and 228 hours, respectively, the two Apollo missions to the Moon and back, and the visit of President Nixon to China. This occasion involved the use of a transportable Earth-station, which was so successful that arrangements for a permanent installation for international

communication via the Intelsat satellite system have since been made.

The number of Earth-stations operating in the Intelsat system continued to increase during the year; notably in the Caribbean (in Trinidad, Jamaica, Martinique and Barbados) and the Eastern Mediterranean (Jordan and Israel). A third aerial was provided at Raisting (Federal Republic of Germany) and also at Goonhilly Downs (United Kingdom) and the first station in Belgium was completed at Lessive, although its facilities are not used regularly for television transmissions. Advantage has been taken of the new possibility of live transmissions via satellite to Jordan and Israel by arranging for the transmission of a ten-minute summary of the principal news exchange every day to the E.B.U. Member organizations in those countries. The extension of these arrangements to serve other Arab states is now being studied.

The two daily Eurovision news exchanges utilizing the network of terrestrial circuits continued to expand. During the first half of 1972 some 2,158 news items having a total duration of 5,608 min were originated, corresponding to increases of 7% and 10% in comparison with the first six months of 1971. On average, each news item was received by 11.5 television networks out of the 26.5 participating in the principal exchange at 1700 hours CET.

Because several television services have recently expressed interest in the production of a midday news bulletin, a third daily news exchange will be organized on an experimental basis early in 1973. The experimental daily exchange of news with E.B.U. Members in Latin America started in March 1971, for which the Spanish network, T.V.E., has provided coordination facilities, has continued during 1972 with the active participation of networks in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.—*Georges Hansen*, Director, Technical Centre, European Broadcasting Union.

(See pages 374 and 375 for Table I and Table II.)