

Meanwhile, Radiodiffusion Television Algerienne (RTA) has placed orders with Pyc TVT worth \$13 million for color equipment to be installed in their three studios in Algiers. The contract includes cameras, switchers, VTR's, telecines, audio, and lighting as well as training and spares.

In *Tunisia*, like many other Arab countries, a second language service was started. It is in French, which does not mean that the programs will be imported from France. They will be Tunisian in character although the French are helping to set up the service.

*Mauritania* has signed an agreement with Iraq on economic and technical cooperation. As part of it, Iraq is presenting Mauritania a \$5 million television station, to be built in its capital Nouakchott.

After the war with Ethiopia and the withdrawal of the Russians, *Somalia* signed a similar agreement with Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar. Iraq has promised to provide a monochrome television station in Mogadishu, while the other three countries finance the implementation of a network which will be color capable.

Noteworthy is a development in *Niger* (not to be confused with Nigeria). The 15-year-old television broadcasting organization, ORTN, transmitted its first official color program (in SECAM) on 7 April

1979. Apart from the building of a complete television production center, the transmitter network is extended to reach 85% coverage in July 1980. One major problem in many regional areas in Niger is the lack of mains electricity supply. Therefore, in those places, all educational receivers and those at many of the communal reception centers are fed from solar cells. At Tillabery, situated on the edge of the Niamey Valley (close to Upper Volta) a re-broadcast transmitter with a power of 1 W has been installed and is also supplied by means of solar cells. This is believed to be a worldwide first.

With television of any kind only four years old in *South Africa*, four new services were in the planning stage during 1979. The first one is an official second program by the South African Broadcasting Corp. (SABC). Its first program is in English and Afrikaans, and the feeling is that this network cannot be further extended (\$20 million was spent in 1979) until a second network is introduced, intended for black viewers. The go-ahead for this service was given in the course of 1979, and it is estimated that the total cost will be close to \$200 million, the majority of which will be financed by revenues of advertising via the first network. It will provide programs in the five most important black ethnic languages as part of the

South African government's policy of distancing the majority black population from the international culture represented by the English.

The second new service was to be started in Johannesburg early 1979, but as yet no confirmation of it has been reported. It is a cable television network set up by Studio One, initially serving an audience of 200,000 in 1,500 apartment blocks. Advertising rates per 1,000 viewers would be 30% lower than SABC.

Thirdly, the isolated "autonomous" black state of *Bophutswanaland*, landlocked within the Republic since its declaration of independence in December 1977, is also planning a television service, which will also be seen by viewers in the South African area. The service will be commercial and broadcast in color; the initial cost is estimated at \$7 million.

The fourth service will be set up in *Botswana*. Its transmitter will be so located as to be able to reach one million population of Johannesburg and Pretoria. The significance of these two latter services is that it is expected that they will ignore the ban on British television programs by the Unions in South Africa (the so-called equity ban). Therefore viewers will be much attracted by these programs, and advertisers will be equally interested. — *Robert van der Leeden*

# Standards & Recommended Practices

## Approved SMPTE Recommended Practices

Two SMPTE Recommended Practices on the above mentioned formats were approved by the Society's Board of Governors on 23 July 1979: RP 87-1980, Reference Carrier Frequencies, Pre-emphasis Characteristic and Audio and Control Signals for  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in Type E Helical-Scan Video Tape Cassette Recording; and RP 88-1980, Reference Carrier Frequencies and Pre-emphasis Characteristic for  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in Type F Helical-Scan Video Tape Recording.

SMPTE Recommended Practices are available from Society Headquarters for \$1.50 each.

## Proposed SMPTE Recommended Practice

A Proposed SMPTE Recommended Practice is published here for a trial period and public review: RP 26, Label Specifications for Quadruplex and Helical-Scan Video Magnetic Tape Recordings. A revision of RP 26-1968, the practice was modified to include specifications for helical-scan recordings.

Comments should be addressed to Alex E. Alden, Manager of Engineering Services, at Society Headquarters prior to 1 July 1980. If no adverse criticism is received, the proposal will be submitted to the Society's Board of Governors for approval.

## Approved American National Standards

Three new American National Standards were approved by the American National Standards Institute on 17 December 1979: ANSI C98.21M-1980, Dimensions and Location of Records for  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in Type E Helical-Scan Video Tape Recording; ANSI C98.22M-1980, Dimensions of Video Cassette for  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in Type E Helical-Scan Video Tape Recording; and ANSI C98.23M-1980, Dimensions and Location of Records and Basic Electrical Parameters for  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in Type F Helical-Scan Video Tape Recording.

Copies of the standards may be obtained for a nominal fee from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018. — *Alex E. Alden, Manager of Engineering Services*