

requirements of EBU member organizations, the EBU staff had a particularly complicated task, both in Moscow and at the Eurovision coordination center in Brussels, as indicated by the following description of the arrangements.

Initially, a total of seven vision circuits from Moscow to Western Europe were planned, together with 50 sets of commentary and control circuits. In fact, all these circuits were required, although in some cases the uses to which they were put and the routes they followed were different from those originally envisaged. Two vision circuits were used for multilateral transmissions which were distributed throughout Western Europe; four provided exclusive coverage for individual member organizations, and one was available for unilateral transmissions. The two multilateral sequences were assembled in the Broadcasting Center from the signals incoming from the 24 locations at which the events took place. All technical facilities were provided and staffed by the Olympic Radio and Television Service, which had been created by the USSR broadcasting organization Gostelradio for the purpose, in accordance with schedules established well in advance in collaboration with EBU representatives.

The Broadcasting Centre was accommodated in three television studios in a new production center at Ostankino, two of which remained available for production of unilateral transmissions and announcements. The floor of the third studio was occupied by the main facilities allocation office, through which all requests for facilities were coordinated. Extensive telecine and tape recording facilities were available, together with editing installations and a color film processing unit. Three sets of ENG equipment provided a particularly valuable means of supplementing the main coverage.

In such a complicated situation, it was essential to avoid overloading the available human and material resources, and this was ensured by strictly enforcing the booking arrangements, which required at least four hours notice for every reservation. Notwithstanding the problems that these restrictions posed for a staff accustomed to rapid decision-making, the successful accomplishment of the task of bringing coverage of these events to viewers throughout Europe reflects great credit on all who participated in it.

Together the two multilateral circuits carried 90 transmissions having a total duration of some 250 hours; and the EBU unilateral circuit carried 206 transmissions lasting nearly 100 hours, despite the fact that four exclusive circuits were also in use.

The only other major event in 1980 that should be mentioned is the Presidential Election in the United States, which involved requests for the transmission to Europe of a total of about 67 hours of coverage, 49 hours of which consisted of unilateral items produced by means of ENG equipment. Unfortunately, the long-established arrangements for sharing the traffic among the four international carriers based in the United States by means of a rota had been terminated in June 1980, and in the subsequent competitive situation, in which complicated procedures were necessary to avoid overloading the limited facilities available, it was not possible to satisfy all the demands.

As may be expected in an Olympic year, the statistics for the transmissions coordinated by the Eurovision staff in 1980 show a significant increase in traffic compared with the previous year. The total duration of these transmissions attained 4429 hours, corresponding to an increase of 30% and the total number of transmissions, disregarding the regular exchanges of news

items, amounted to 8894 which was 25% greater than in 1979. On the other hand the total number of news items originated during the three daily transmissions was virtually unchanged at 6371.

One of the few growth areas during 1980 was that of teletext broadcasting, and by the end of the year regular transmissions were taking place in eight European countries. In all of them the existing television broadcasting organizations are responsible for the transmissions, although in a few cases the press has also participated in the preparation of certain pages. The number of receivers equipped to display teletext remains relatively small, but it is expected that sales will increase as soon as the required integrated circuits become available in large quantities.

It is now evident that two teletext systems will continue to coexist in Europe: the British system, in which the position of each broadcast data group in the data line normally determines the horizontal position of the corresponding display character on the teletext page, and the French system, known as Antiope, in which these positions are independent. In order to minimize the inconvenience that the coexistence of two systems may cause, the EBU has been active in encouraging the development of a "universal" teletext decoder equally suitable for either system, and the harmonization of the available display characteristics so that pages originated with either system may be converted for transmission by the other system, or by videotex, without any impairment. Considerable progress has already been achieved towards both these objectives.

Research into other potential applications of digital techniques in broadcasting is also being pursued, notably with the aim of facilitating the operation of domestic receivers, as well as that of providing new services.

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