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CANADA EXTENDS ITS TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Addressing a luncheon gathering of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation at Corner Brook, Newfoundland, on September 23, Transport Minister Hees reminded his audience that, when the facilities of Cable and Wireless Limited and Canadian Marconi Company had been taken over in 1950 by the COTC, it had been clear "that considerable expansion was imperative to provide the service that would be expected with the expansion of the Canadian economy." The programme undertaken to meet this need, he said, had been successfully carried out. Mr. Hees went on to describe this phase of Canada's telecommunication development in the following words:

"...This programme included:

(1) Additional installations at Drummondville and Yamachiche, Quebec, for the purposes of direct radiotelegraph communication between Canada and France, Italy and Germany.

(2) A new cable station at St. John's, Newfoundland, and renewal of direct Canada-United Kingdom telegraph cable.

(3) New radio sending and receiving stations at Cloverdale and Ladner, British Columbia, providing direct radiotelegraph, radiotelephone, telex and picture transmission services with Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

(4) Bamfield cable operating-station abandoned and the two Pacific telegraph cables extended to a new automatic relay station at Port Alberni, British Columbia, this change

resulting in substantial economies as well as more efficient operations.

(5) New terminal operating building at Vancouver.

(6) New head office building in Montreal, in which is housed the main operating-centre.

(7) In collaboration with the British Post Office and American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the first trans-Atlantic telephone cable was constructed, installed and brought into service in 1956, at present providing for Canada 13 high-quality voice circuits and 22 telegraph circuits and permitting the following important developments:

- (a) greatly improved overseas telephone services;
- (b) international telex with 47 countries;
- (c) high-fidelity programme services to and from the United Kingdom and Europe;
- (d) first-class picture transmissions that enabled Canada to share with the United Kingdom the honour of producing the first trans-Atlantic slow-scan television pictures on the occasion of the visit to Canada of Her Majesty The Queen in 1959;
- (e) capacity for privately-leased circuits;
- (f) provision of adequate telephone capacity between the mainland and Newfoundland, now comprising 24 circuits;
- (g) provision of facilities to meet defence and government communication requirements....