

Subsection 4.—Overseas Telecommunication Services

The Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation was established in 1950 to maintain and operate external telecommunication services for the conduct of public communications by cable, radiotelegraph and radiotelephone and any other means of telecommunication between Canada and overseas points; to make use of all developments in cable and radio transmission and reception for external telecommunication services; and to conduct investigation and research with the object of improving and co-ordinating such telecommunication services with the telecommunication services of other parts of the Commonwealth.

In 1952 the Corporation commenced an expansion program of overseas services designed to meet future requirements and the following services have so far been established: direct telegraph, telephone and telex communications between Canada and Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Bermuda, Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

In 1956 the first transatlantic telephone cable, a joint project with the British Post Office, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Corporation, was brought into service. Apart from normal use of the system for public telephone and telegraph message traffic, capacity is available for private leased circuits. The Corporation introduced International Telex service to Canada in 1956 and service with 63 countries is available. The first transatlantic slow-scan television pictures were transmitted between Canada and Britain in 1959. In addition, 35 telephone circuits have been provided by cable and microwave for use between the mainland and Newfoundland.

The Canada-Britain 80-circuit telephone cable (CANTAT) was opened for service on Dec. 19, 1961. The Corporation will provide, jointly with the Great Northern Telegraph Company, a Canada-Greenland-Iceland 24-circuit telephone cable—primarily to meet the North Atlantic communication needs of international civil aviation—scheduled to go into operation in 1962. Its connecting counterpart between Iceland and Scotland (SCOTICE) was brought into service on Jan. 22, 1962. A four-party project (Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand) will provide a Canada-New Zealand-Australia 80-circuit telephone cable. This section of a Commonwealth round-the-world telephone cable system is scheduled for completion early in 1964. The Tasman section between Australia and New Zealand will be opened in July 1962. Arrangements were completed for the right of use of a number of circuits for Canadian purposes in a telephone cable system connecting Bermuda and the United States and these were brought into operation on Jan. 8, 1962.

In addition to the overseas services operated by the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation, two cable companies operate submarine cables landing in Canada—the Commercial Cable Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company. These companies operate to stations in Britain, Ireland, the United States, the Azores and St. Pierre and Miquelon Islands.

A list of cables landed in Canada is given in Table 7.

7.—External Cables Landed in Canada, 1961

Company and Station	Cables	Nautical Miles
	No.	No.
Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation (COTC)—		
Halifax, N.S. via Azores to Porthcurno, England.....	1	3,078
Port Alberni, B.C. to Auckland, New Zealand.....	1	6,748
Port Alberni, B.C. to Sydney, Australia.....	1	7,830
Sydney Mines, N.S. via Clarenville, Nfld. to Oban, Scotland ¹	2	2,280
Hampden Nfld. to Oban, Scotland (CANTAT).....	1	2,010

¹For footnotes, see end of table, p. 846.