

Satellite
For Phones
Due Shortly

WASHINGTON (AP)—Europe and North America may start using a satellite regularly for transatlantic telephone communications as early as next May.

This was disclosed in a statement of project plans filed by the Communications Satellite Corporation (Comsat) with the Federal Communications Commission.

At the same time Comsat announced it has asked 16 aerospace companies to propose studies of the launch vehicles that could be used to place medium-altitude communications satellites in orbit.

The statement filed with the FCC said the 45-pound first Comsat satellite, known as the Early Bird, is to be launched in March into a high-orbit orbit, 22,300 miles above the equator at 27 degrees west longitude.

Hovering roughly over the area of the Cape Verde Islands in the Atlantic, it will be capable of transmitting television, computer data, telegrams and other types of record traffic as well as two-way telephone conversations.

At its first operational use, however, probably will be telephone service since the ground stations are being geared to this type of relay initially.

Starting Jan. 1, Comsat will lease the Andover, Me., ground station from American Telephone and Telegraph Company. This lease will continue until two months after the Early Bird launch, when commercial operations are to get under way.

Andover will be linked with the key European stations—at Goomhilly Downs in Britain; Pleumeur-Beau, France; and Raisting, West Germany.

A new Canadian station at Mill Village, N.S., will be in the final stages of testing at the time, and will not enter the system until next October.

Sarnia To Get Fertilizer Plant

TORONTO (CP)—Construction will start next spring on a \$30,000,000 chemical fertilizer plant near Sarnia, Ont. Prime Minister John Robarts made the announcement at a press conference.

The plant, owned by Canadian Industries Limited, will employ 300 permanent workers when it is completed in 1966.

The plant will have a capacity of more than 340,000 tons of agricultural chemicals—mainly ammonia—a year. It will supply fertilizers to much of Eastern Canada and the Great Lakes areas of the United States.

Truck Smashes Into School Bus

DETROIT (AP)—An oil tanker veered across a median and smashed into a school bus and a station wagon in suburban Detroit Tuesday. The school bus driver was killed and 18 persons were injured.

The bus was carrying 40 Taylor Centre High School students. Seventeen were treated for injuries in hospital.

Bus Driver Cecil Smith, 51, was pinned in his seat and died shortly after police freed him.

The driver of the station wagon, Robert Cecil Overstreet, 48, was injured seriously. Four students were reported in serious condition.

The tanker driver, Charles F. Huber, who was not hurt was quelled as saying he swerved sharply to avoid a car which changed lanes in front of him.

N.B. Company Gets Nfld. Job

OTTAWA (CP)—Diamond Construction (1961) Limited of Fredericton has been awarded a \$31,982 contract for construction of the second stage of a haul-out system for ship repairing at Clarendville, Nfld. It was announced here.

The project for the transport department, is to be completed in a year. The facility will be operated by Newfoundland Shipyards Limited for repairs of vessels operating in Newfoundland waters.

The project provides a concrete area with a haul-out device so ships can be pulled from the water on rails for inspection and repair. It will be able to handle two 500-ton vessels at a time.

A wharf 180 feet long and 25 feet wide is also to be built. Construction of the main haul-out system has been completed under a \$158,533 contract awarded to Avalon Construction and Engineering Limited of St. John's, Nfld.

OTTAWA (CP)—Thirty foreign students from 20 Columbia Plan countries, enrolled in Carleton University's school of public administration, are touring the federal works department this week to study the organization and operations of various sections of the department.

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