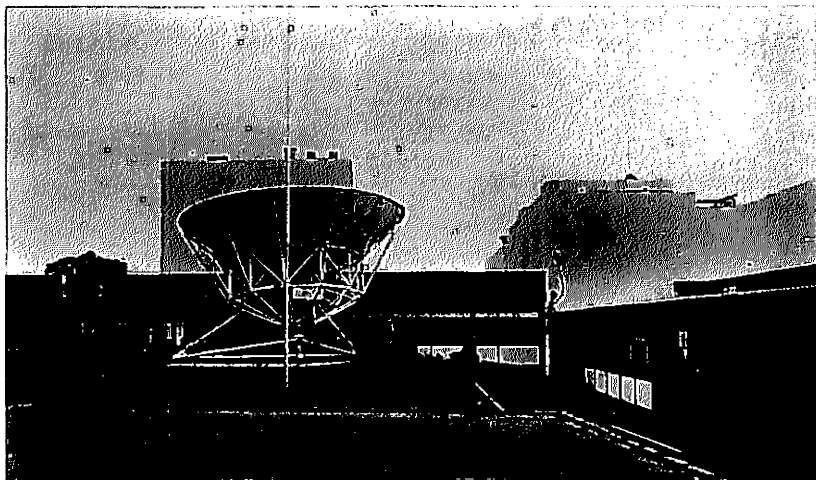


OFF THE AIR

Edmun B. Richmond



Ed Richmond took this photo of the earth satellite receiver station in Bouake, Ivory Coast, West Africa.

In last issue's column, I wrote about my trip to West Africa, and pedagogical research in The Gambia, having resulted from an amateur radio contact. The second chapter of the story took place last summer, when I returned to West Africa, to continue my research. During a three-week interlude, I traveled to six other African nations, at the invitation of several governments, as well as to visit amateurs whom I had contacted on the air. My travels led me to Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo, Upper Volta, Mali, and Senegal. Interviews and conferences at various educational radio and television installations were arranged by the African Section of the U.S. International Communications Agency.

One of the largest educational TV networks in Africa is located in Bouake, in the central part of the Ivory Coast. The plant contains a complete building for the production staff, as well as a separate engineering building with several television and radio studios, film labs, office space, an animation studio, and a complete earth station for receiving and transmitting satellite programs to and from Europe, as well as internally in the country via microwave relay stations (see photo). This is the largest and most sophisticated ETV network in West Africa, and a show-place to which other African governments send representatives for inspection and training. The complex is supported by French money and technical assistance.

Other educational radio installations were visited in Cotonou, Benin, and Ouagadougou, Upper Volta as well as a visit to Dakar, Senegal, where the Ministry of Education is preparing a series of English language

broadcasts in cooperation with the British Cultural Centre. All of these governments realize the power and importance of the transmitted word, especially in view of the large illiterate populations within their boundaries. Educational radio and television will continue to grow as a service sorely needed in this part of the world.

We now continue with listings of amateur radio callsign prefixes. This issue will treat the list for those countries in which French is the national or official language.

Country	Prefix	Country	Prefix
Algeria	7X	Martinique	FM
Burundi	9U	Mauritania	5T
Cameroon	TJ	Mauritius Island	3B
Canada	VE	Mayotte Island	FH
Central African Rep.	TL	Monaco	3A
Chad	TT	Morocco	CN
Comoro State	D6	New Caledonia	FK
Congo, Popular Rep.	TN	Niger Republic	5U
Corsica	FC	Reunion Island	FR
Djibouti	J2	Rwanda	9X
France	F	Country	Prefix
French Polynesia	FO	St. Pierre & Miquelon	FP
Gabon	TR	Senegal	6W
Guadeloupe Is.	FG	Togo	5V
Guiana, French	FY	Tunesia	3V
Haiti	HH	Upper Volta	XT
Ivory Coast	TU	Wallis & Futuna Is.	FW
Mali	TZ	Zaire	9Q

Next time, we shall include the prefixes for those countries in which German, Portuguese, and Russian are the dominant languages. Until then, good listening!

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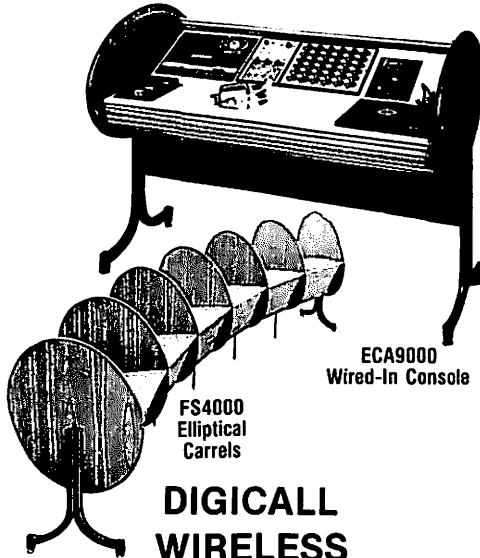


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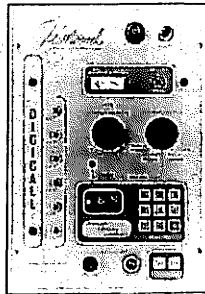
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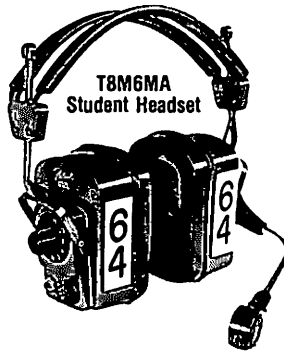
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