

OTC OPENS \$4 MILLION EARTH STATION FOR



50 Million People Watch Prime Ministers Introduce Telecommunications Space Age

MORE than 50 million people in two countries watched a live international television relay between Australia and Japan on Friday, March 29, immediately following the official opening of Australia's earth station for public commercial satellite communication at Moree, N.S.W.

The station, owned and operated by the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia), was officially opened by the Postmaster-General, Mr. Alan S. Hulme.

About 250 representatives of government, commerce, industry, news media, OTC personnel and people from Moree and surrounding districts attended.

A number of guests came from the U.S.A. as well as Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

The OTC Moree earth station for satellite communication, costing \$4 million, now provides additional high-grade services for Australian telecommunications with other countries for telephone, telegram, telex, data-transfer, phototelegram, audio-broadcast and leased circuit traffic.

It also makes possible international television exchanges across the Pacific for the first time on a commercial basis.

The official opening at Moree was immediately followed by a one-hour television programme, the Australian segment of which was produced by the Australian Broadcasting Commission.



Mr. GORTON
Prime Minister—Australia



Mr. SATO
Prime Minister—Japan

The TV programme was seen live on the A.B.C. network in all States of Australia (except Western Australia) and throughout Japan on a national Japanese network of 731 television stations.

Western Australian viewers saw the TV programme on Saturday, March 30, and the A.B.C. relayed a repeat of the programme on Sunday.

The one-hour long programme, "OVER THE EQUATOR—JAPAN—AUSTRALIA," placed accent on youth.

Japanese and Australian viewers saw children's swimming races from Ryde, Australia, and Yokohama, Japan.

One thousand young Japanese violinists played Dvorak's "Humoresque", young choirs sang traditional songs with excellence as well as "Click go the Shears" and "Waltzing Matilda" with great charm, accuracy and sophistication.

From Melbourne, a High School orchestra played Holst, a pop group rendered "Day Tripper" and the Red Onions dispensed jazz to Japan.

The 250 guests at the OTC Moree earth station watched the programme in a marquee on seven monitor screens.

Another two sets were placed along the outskirts of the station for visitors to watch.

(See Moree special coverage on other pages.)





GLITTERING SCENES AT MOREE OPENING

THE opening scene was a glittering occasion in Moree—it was probably the most significant event in the town's history.

Moree was dressed for the occasion in brightly-coloured lights and many miles of road had been specially prepared for the evening.

Six miles away, on the Mungindi Road, the scene at the earth station was bustling with activity.

The approach road was brilliantly illuminated, and the station itself was flood-lit to a level where the antenna could be seen from Moree.

Inside the main marquee guests assembled to await the arrival of the official party.

The Master of Ceremonies, OTC Commercial Manager, Mr. G. F. Maltby, outlined the programme while members of the official party assembled on the dais.

He then introduced the Chairman of OTC, Mr. A. E. Chadwick, to the distinguished gathering.

Mr. Chadwick said, because of the tremendous growth in demand for overseas communications of all kinds, stimulated by the great success of the coaxial cable systems, satellite communications would provide a welcome means of obtaining necessary additional capacity.

Australia was one of the first countries to recognise the potential of satellites and, through OTC, became a foundation member in the global scheme.

Mr. Chadwick said that in order to take advantage of this new medium, it was necessary to provide a receiving and transmitting earth station in line of sight with satellites.

He added that Moree had been selected as the best location to meet requirements for the satellite over the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Chadwick said that he was pleased to see so many local people

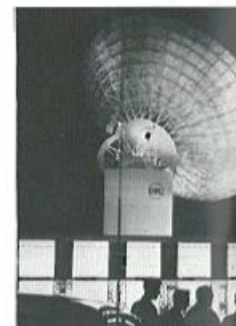
Five scenes from Japan transmitted to Australia through the Ibaraki earth station to the INTELSAT II satellite over the Pacific received through OTC Moree earth station.



OTC Chairman, Mr. A. E.



Watching the



Special arrangement



Mr. Hulme meeting



Mr. Chadwick, addressing guests



International telecast.



the public.



ABC camera crew.

as guests, which also gave him the opportunity of saying "thanks" for the welcome given to the OTC staff who had come to work in the area, and for the co-operation OTC had been given in every way.

He concluded by saying that the Commission felt proud of its achievement and looked forward to a great future with confidence.

The Chairman of the Moree and districts Local Government Standing Committee, Alderman W. A. Lloyd, Mayor of Moree, addressed guests followed by the Managing Director of Collins Radio Company (Australia) Pty. Ltd., Mr. Trevor Lee.

Mr. Chadwick then introduced the Postmaster-General, Mr. Alan S. Hulme.

Mr. Hulme said that the opening of the Moree earth station had really brought Australia into the space age.

He said Australia could well be standing on the threshold of a communications revolution as fundamental as the one that was already being experienced.

"I have in mind such refinements as the laser beam with its many scientific applications, including the field of communications; the instant newspaper transmitting continuously by radio directly to the reader; and combined telephone and television instruments where one sees the person one is talking to."

Atmosphere

The atmosphere at Moree minutes before the international relay began was charged with tension and anticipation.

On the dais the official party kept their eyes fixed on a monitor screen waiting for the grand switch-over.

The 250 guests spoke only in whispers and seconds before the change-over a hushed silence enveloped the audience as contact was made with Japan.

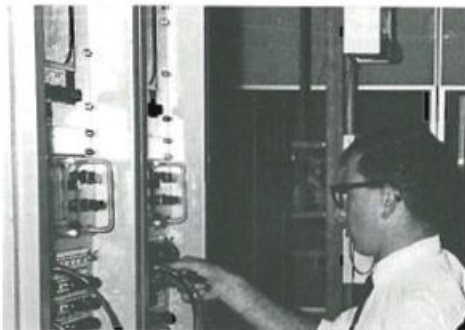
It was in that split-second that history was made.

Australia and Japan were one fifth of a second apart!

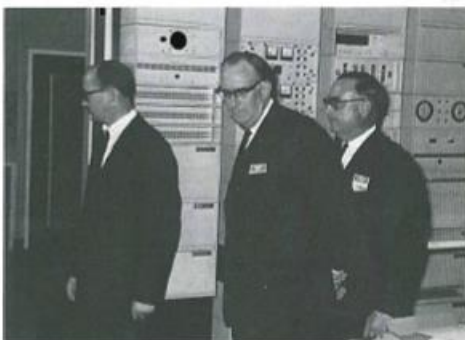
Meanwhile at the station's control centre, only 100 yards away from the main marquee, OTC technicians and engineers, directed by the Assistant General Manager (Technical), Mr. C. Vahtrick and engineers Messrs. P. W. Humphries, B. Lancaster and J. Robertson put Australia into the space age.



Watching telex talk with Japan.



Concentrating on a TV monitor.



A tour of inspection.



Presentation by Moree Mayor, Ald. W. Lloyd.



MOREE EARTH STATION FOR SATELLITE COMMUNICATION

THE Moree opening began for the official party in the hustle and bustle of Sydney airport at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 29.

It climaxed when a special Fokker Friendship aircraft circled the Moree airport while awaiting radio clearance to land.

The official party, guests, senior OTC staff and pressmen on board, including the Postmaster-General Mr. Hulme, OTC Chairman Mr. Chadwick and General Manager, Mr. White, fastened their safety belts.

A few thousand feet below a reception committee led by the Mayor of Moree, Alderman W. Lloyd and attended by OTC Public Relations Officer, Mr. N. J. Smith waited.

A small group of people filled the airport terminal building and pressed against the adjoining fences to watch.

At the earth station, nine miles away, dozens of leaders in communi-

cations technology were rubbing shoulders and chatting with local farmers, businessmen and civic leaders.

OTC Public Relations staff were making last minute arrangements in the five marquees.

The main marquee a few feet away from the station, housed the official dais against a background of the national flag, flanked by production and sound equipment.

Monitor Screens

The 250 seats in the marquee were suitably positioned to face the seven television monitor screens to which guests, only 45 minutes hence, were to witness the most momentous day in Moree's history and a significant day for Australia.

In another marquee, catering staff were laying out tables on which was an array of food.

Even the bread rolls were decorated with the OTC symbol.

In the control centre of the earth station, OTC personnel were running a series of last minute tests with Japan on a satellite positioned 22,300 miles above the Pacific Ocean.

Three-quarters of the Moree police establishment were on duty; some controlling traffic on the road; some at the entrance of the station and some inside the grounds and buildings.

Parking attendants and gate attendants were checking and supervising the five car parks; two large enough for 1,000 cars.

Six local very attractive girls acted as hostesses directed by Miss H. Bruce of Head Office.

Meanwhile, at the Moree Airport, the aircraft had landed and with the welcoming ceremony over the special guests and official party were being ushered to the Moree Motel where they freshened up and were then taken to the station.

Press Coverage

The eight pressmen, representing news gathering organisations throughout Australia, were taken directly to a specially prepared Press room, equipped with an array of telephones. Picturegram facilities were available nearby.

Following an inspection of the station by the Postmaster-General and OTC officials the party moved into the main marquee where the guests were awaiting their arrival.

After the official opening, at 8.24 precisely, a maze of technical equipment swung into operation for the first (official) time, linking Japan to Australia in 1/5th of a second.

The reception was tremendously clear in both countries; as clear as the flood-lit antenna probing deep into space only 100 feet away.



Mr. and Mrs. Hulme arrive and . . .



Meet Collins Radio and OTC staff . . .



While Kim Corcoran of the ABC rehearses



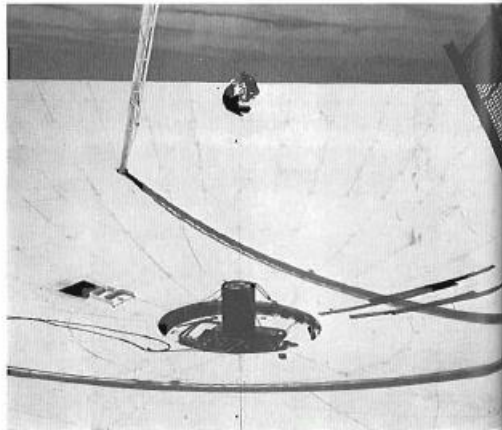
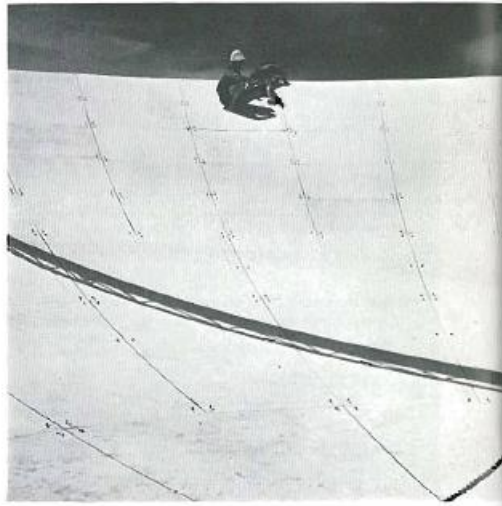
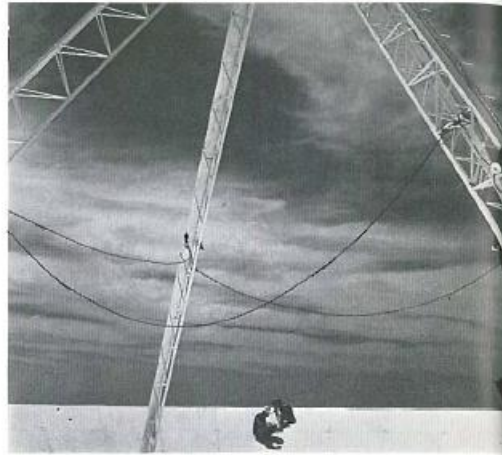
A few words of briefing . . .



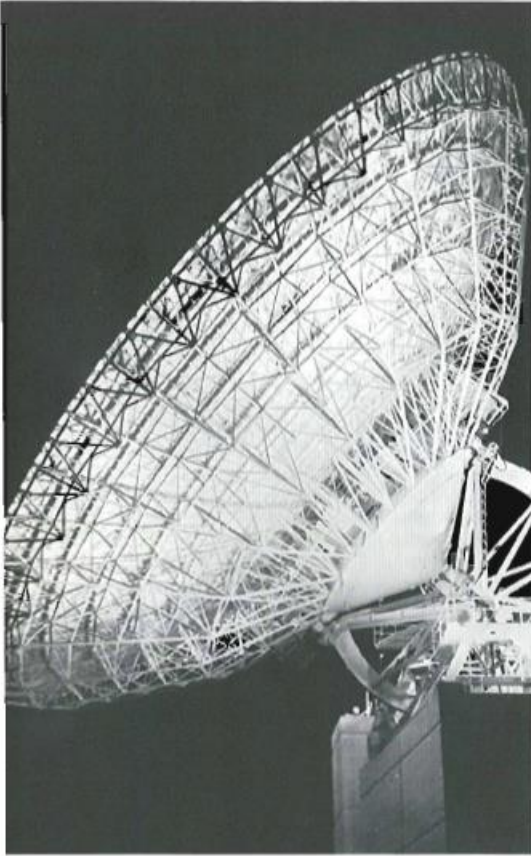
A name tag from six pretty hostesses . . .



And the ceremony has begun.



DIFFERENT STAGES, DIFFERENT MOODS—COMPLETED



A LITTLE AWE INSPIRING . . . SYMBOL OF A NEW AGE

The Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia)

CONTACT, 2nd Quarter, 1968

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Mr. B. W. Douglas.



Mr. T. S. Pfeiffer.



Mr. D. C. Reynolds.



Mr. J. W. Adams.



Mr. P. J. Seaton.



Mr. N. Goddard.

OTC families move into progressive country town

MOREE is an aboriginal name and means "The Rising Sun". With a population of about 8,000 the town is situated in the northern part of New South Wales, about 150 miles from the Dividing Range.

Moree is the centre of one of the largest wool and wheat producing areas in Australia. The Mehi River flows through the town and the Gwydir River flows on its northern and eastern boundaries.

One of the tourist attractions in Moree is the Artesian Bore Baths, sometimes used by patients suffering from rheumatics and other complaints.

The Bore, opened in 1885, is about 2,700 feet deep and has a daily flow of more than 600,000 gallons.

In 1851 a store and pound were established on what is the site of Moree, by James Brand; the town was surveyed eight years later and proclaimed in 1862.

Moree is 430 air miles from Sydney and is 686 feet above sea level.

It has two aboriginal settlements with a population of about 1,000, but only one full-blooded aboriginal, Mr. "Barney" Hinch, who is a resident of the town.

OTC technicians and their families have moved into 12 staff houses at Moree and will soon become part of the Moree scene and "The Rising Sun."

The Mayor of Moree, Alderman Lloyd, said the OTC families would find that facilities provided by Moree are comparable with those available in many other towns having a greater population.

He said the town afforded first class education facilities in all grades and work was soon to commence on the erection of a modern high school to cater for approximately 1,000 students.

He said a rapid expansion of industry, mainly allied to rural production, had been evident over the past years and chief among the industries now firmly established in the town are the abattoirs, flour mill, linseed crushing plant, seed grading plant and many secondary engineering works.

The Moree airport, with regular services to Sydney, is relatively close to the town, which has seven hotels, one motel and another under construction, three caravan parks and another under construction, to cater for the growing influx of tourists.

Among the chief tourist attractions in the district are weekend mining excursions to Lightning Ridge in search of opals and other precious stones.

There are two chartered air services available to the Gold Coast and once a year sheep buyers fly in from neighbouring districts to attend a one-day sheep sale.

MOREE—IT MEANS

The city of Moree





Station Manager Mr. L. Mahony.

The town also has a golf club, two bowling clubs and fishing in the Gwydir River. There are also some shooting expeditions arranged on local properties.

Alderman Lloyd said a development project, at present under consideration by the Municipal Council, was the construction of a weir on the Mehi River, which would result in the beautification of parklands and the areas adjacent to the river, which flows through the town.

He said that in conjunction with the weir development scheme on the Mehi were

plans for sailing and boating.

Alderman Lloyd added that the Moree earth station would, without a doubt, attract a larger number of tourists and he personally thought that the station could quite easily become the number one tourist attraction in the district.

The OTC staff who man the station in Moree consists of Messrs. L. Mahony, L. Reynolds, G. Watts, B. Douglas, N. Goddard, F. C. Grasby, B. Woods, J. W. Adams, D. C. Reynolds, P. Seaton, D. Grant, R. Docherty, T. S. Pfeiffer.



Mr. G. Watts.



Mr. L. Reynolds.



Mr. B. Woods.



Mr. F. C. Grasby.



Mr. R. Docherty



Mr. D. Grant

OTC staff houses

THE RISING SUN



The Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia)



Mr. C. Vahtrick.



Mr. D. J. Abercrombie.



Mr. R. E. Knightley.



Mr. J. D. Robertson.



Mr. B. J. Lancaster.



Mr. P. W. Humphries.



Mr. N. Feltscheer.



Mr. G. Berzins.



Mr. P. R. Crosthwaite.



Mr. W. A. Southwood.



Mr. T. Minta.



Mr. N. Harris.



Mr. W. M. Woods.



Mr. K. Howe.



Mr. D. M. Kennedy



Mr. R. Gray.



Mr. R. T. Ballingall.

Australian engineering skill equips the

Planning, Developing and Implementing a \$4 Million Project

MORE than 30 OTC staff flew a quarter of a million miles overseas and in Australia during the last 12 months on work associated with the planning, supervision and construction of the Moree Earth Station.

Many worked under difficulties, and the physical and mental strain attached to their work and travel became part of their everyday lives.

The original specification for Moree was drawn up by Senior Engineer Mr. B. J. Lancaster and closely vetted by the then Chief Planning Officer, Mr. C. Vahtrick (now Assistant General Manager, Technical).

Construction tenders were called in March, 1966, and in January, 1967, OTC received the original offer from Collins Radio Company (Australia) Pty. Ltd.

In March, 1967, the site works commenced when Engineers R. E. Knightley, Lancaster and Properties Officer Mr. N. R. Harris went to the Moree site and drove a peg into the soil.

Tenders were evaluated by Supervising Engineer Mr. Knightley, aided by Mr. Lancaster and Mr. G. Berzins.

nation for the future.

Mr. Lancaster flew to Dallas in Texas, where he re-wrote the original specifications under the direction of Mr. Knightley in Sydney.

The final specifications were then controlled by Mr. Knightley and Mr. Vah-trick, assisted by Mr. J. D. Robertson, who from then on became project engineer for Moree, assisted by Mr. Lancaster.

While overseas, Mr. Lancaster had talks with manufacturers in America, had special talks with C.O.T.C., COM-SAT, the British Post Office, and the Department of Transport in Australia together with the Australian Post Office.

When Mr. Robertson went on long service leave, Supervising Engineer Mr. P. W. Humphries took over as project engineer and was assisted on the technical side by Mr. T. A. Minta and Mr. Lancaster.

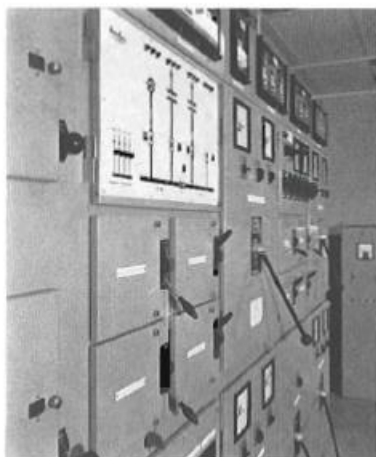
Other engineers who assisted were Messrs. P. R. Crosthwaite, J. E. Mat-
tess, T. Robinson, W. Woods, W. A. Southwood.

Additional engineers were added to the team to carry out negotiations for inter-connection facilities for Moree, and during testing periods.

These included Messrs. D. M. Ken-
nedy, N. S. Feltscheer and K. G. Howe.

The Chief Engineer, Mr. D. J. Aber-
crombie, supervised the overall project.

The Stores Superintendent, Mr. W. G. Miller, supervised the calling of tenders. Building Superintendent Mr. R. T. Ballingall, was in charge of the main building and also the 12 staff houses which were built by Pettit & Sevitt.



Power Control Panel, Moree.

The Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia)



Brewster Flats, Washington, U.S.A.



Paumalu, Hawaii, U.S.A.



Ibaraki, Japan.

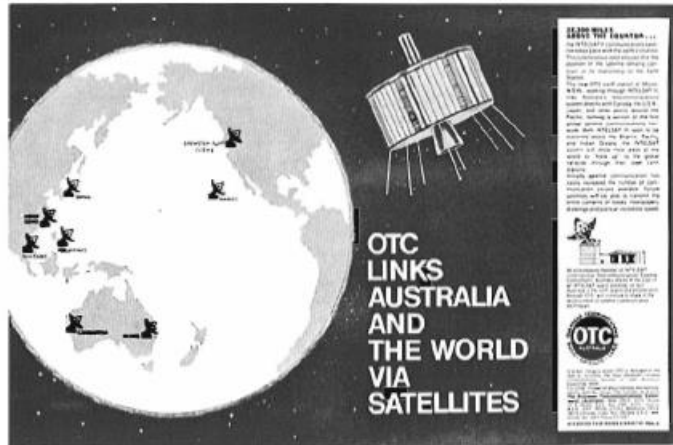
Three earth stations for satellite communication through which the OTC Moree earth station can operate: Brewster Flats, Washington Paumalu, Hawaii and Ibaraki, Japan. These stations will initially be linked via an INTELSAT II satellite positioned over the Pacific Ocean. The Moree earth station exchanged a programme with the Japanese station on March 29 to mark the official opening of Australia's second Earth Station.

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Campaign reaches
5 million readers

Moree — A Major OTC Promotion



A PART from the 50 million television viewers in Japan and Australia who saw the one hour opening TV relay, more than five million Australians read about the opening in Australian newspapers.

Most newspapers—even country and suburban press—ran major articles on the event and many carried front page stories supported by graphic illustrations.

Some radio stations carried the formal opening ceremony live, and film units covered the event for national and overseas distribution.

It was later estimated that OTC received more than \$175,000 worth of free newspaper space, TV and radio time devoted to the opening.

Special features were carried by three newspapers on the eastern coast of Australia—the Courier

Mail, Brisbane, the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age in Melbourne.

In addition special arrangement was made with the Australian Financial Review, which on March 29, in association with OTC, published a 40-page survey to mark the opening of the Moree earth station.

The Financial Review dealt at length with the subject of international communication and particularly international telecommunications by satellite.

Full Support

OTC gained the full support of Directors of Secondary Education in Australia as part of an educational project and 150,000 copies of the Review were distributed to 1,677 high schools throughout the nation.

Every high school Principal received a personal letter from the

Commission describing the project and asking that, when it was distributed to school leavers, a special educational exercise be set based on information contained within the newspaper.

Almost the whole of the distribution of the Financial Review was completed throughout Australia by 11 a.m. on the Friday morning, within 10 hours of publishing.

The 40-page feature included major OTC advertisements supported by in depth editorial articles as well as advertisements by leading commercial communications companies, the Australian Post Office, Local Government and building companies.

A spokesman for John Fairfax & Sons Pty. Ltd., printers and publishers of the Review, described the



OTC features and educational campaign as one of the largest promotions of its type ever undertaken in Australia.

The whole project with the Financial Review took months of careful organisation and planning.

Additional trucks had to be used to carry the newspapers to their point of delivery, and in many cases special loadings had to be arranged on aircraft flying to other States.

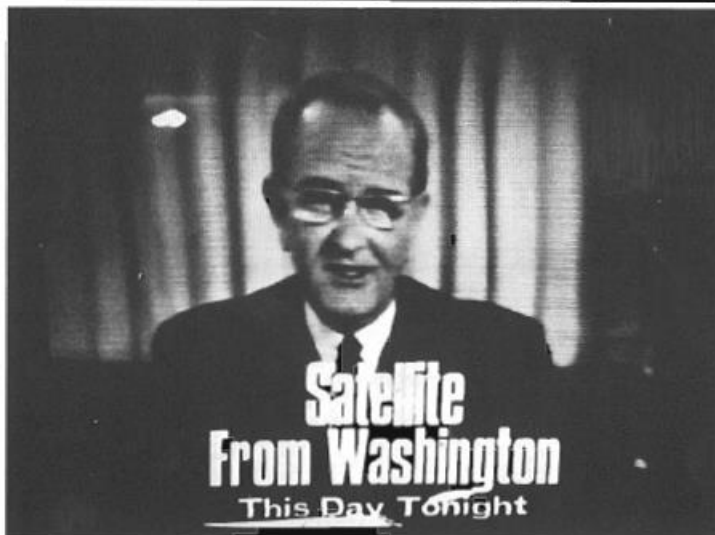
Hard News Stories

In Melbourne and Adelaide newspapers ran full length features on the Moree station and its opening; and many newspapers throughout the nation followed up the story next day with additional hard news stories of the event.

The Northern Daily Leader, morning paper of the north-west of New South Wales, ran several front page coverages with illustrations.

Press representatives who went to Moree covered for the A.B.C., The Australian, Radio Station 2UW and its network, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Sydney Daily Telegraph and the Northern Daily Leader.

The Leader sent additional representatives to cover for Australian United Press which supplies a special service to country papers throughout Australia.



President Johnson of the U.S. announcing, from Washington, that he would not seek re-election this year.

In addition, representatives of the Sydney Morning Herald provided both editorial and pictorial coverage for the Brisbane Courier Mail, the Melbourne Sun-Pictorial, the Adelaide Advertiser, the Hobart Mercury and the West Australian.

Special Coverage

The Sydney Daily Telegraph sent a special story to the Melbourne Age.

Radio 2VM in Moree also supplied a special report for the 2GB Macquarie network.

Pressmen were able to telephone their stories direct from the earth station to papers in all parts of Australia and special phototelegram facilities established at the Moree Post Office handled the transmission of pictures for the national press.

Two Publications

OTC also produced two special publications on satellite communication and the Moree station which were distributed on the night of the opening.

One was a folder entitled the OTC Earth Station For Satellite Communication At Moree, N.S.W. and the other a colour booklet called OTC Links Australia And The World Via Satellites.

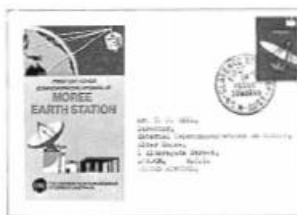
Both publications are available for distribution during the next 18 months.

A special first day cover and stamp were designed and issued to coincide with the opening.

Apart from general promotion, the Commission ran substantial advertisements in leading morning newspapers in all States.

The first commercial programme received through the Moree earth station via the INTELSAT II satellite over the Pacific was screened on television throughout Australia three days later on April 1.

FIRST DAY COVER



This was the announcement by President Johnson from Washington that he intended to step down and not seek re-election as President of the United States in November next.

President Johnson's speech lasted about 30 minutes and as a telecast via satellite showed the great potential and importance of the Moree earth station.

