

extending its concern to other parts of the world, but I assume they have a fairly localized traffic.

General KLOCKO. I could surmise, but I would guess that the NATO community has been trying to keep up with the state of the art in getting a method of communication, which they don't have which has a reliability, survivability, and certain other aspects not true of some of the other methods of communication they have.

Mr. ROBACK. Would it be able to bypass the French or Italian telephone systems? That might be an asset.

General KLOCKO. It would indeed. [Laughter.]

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Incidentally, this committee's first interest in this matter was when we found an Air Force base in the tip end of Italy was depending upon the Italian commercial telephone line to get their signal from NATO. That was several years ago.

That was the only communication they had. That was when we started pushing for these independent communication systems which would not be dependent upon local commercial systems.

Dr. TUCKER. I think it's very clear to us that one of the important advantages of the satellite communications system to the United States is the independence of these communication links on any third party or system owned by others. The fact that the terminals are located where we are located and the satellite is under our control is a very important feature.

I presume the same feature is important to the NATO organization.

Mr. BENINGTON. At the time that Ambassador Cleveland proposed this program, I think there was considerable concern on the part of various NATO states that the heads of government and the foreign ministries and ministries of defense could communicate well with the North Atlantic Council.

These would be rugged, independent, secure communications. The proposal was very receptive.

Mr. ROBACK. Is the fact mentioned here, that the United States will control the ground stations, due to the fact that the SHAPE commander is American?

Dr. TUCKER. I think that is primarily due to the fact that we have a technical capability of controlling the positioning of the satellites.

Mr. BENINGTON. Position keeping of the satellite in its synchronous orbit position—not control of the ground terminals.

Mr. ROBACK. Excuse me. This was in contradistinction to the United Kingdom, which would control its own satellite after orbit. But in NATO we would be controlling. This is a matter of capability rather than protocol.

Dr. TUCKER. This is engineering control of the command to the satellite to position it and so forth. The United Kingdom has that capability. We have that capability.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. One of the reasons we felt that the Defense Department should be independent of Comsat was the international control of the ground stations, and we looked forward with some apprehension to the time of crisis when that control would be out of our hands.

Mr. ROBACK. What is the significance of the packaged teletype channels from a communications standpoint, General Klocko?