

No objections to the Commission's letters of February 16, 1968, were filed by the applicants or by Comsat.

Notice of Filing Applications and Responses Thereto

7. Public notice of the filing of the captioned applications was given on April 2, 1968. Copies of the applications, with notices extending opportunity to file comments, were mailed on April 2 and 3, 1968, to the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Director of Telecommunications Policy, Defense Communications Agency, National Security Agency, Governor of Rhode Island, Office of the Director of Telecommunications Management, the President's Task Force on Communications Policy, Communications Satellite Corp., and French Cable Co. In response to such notice, a statement was filed by the Communications Satellite Corp.

8. Pursuant to Executive Order No. 10530, dated May 10, 1954, relating to the issuance of cable landing licenses, the Department of State, by letter dated April 22, 1968, advised the Commission that it approved the issuance of the requisite cable landing license as proposed in the application here under consideration, provided that the conditions contained in the Commission's letters of February 16, 1968, were set forth in either the cable landing license or in the concurrent authorization under section 214 of the Communications Act. In a second letter dated April 22, 1968, the Department of State set out its view that approval of the applications must not prejudice the earliest establishment of large-capacity satellites, particularly the proposed Intelsat IV. Further, the State Department advised that our national commitment to Intelsat, and to its future growth, as stated by the President on August 14, 1967, leads logically to this position. The State Department also stated it reads the Commission's letter of February 16, 1968 as expressing a similar view.

Applicants' Statements in Support of Applications

9. Applicants state that the proposed new facilities are justified by the following factors:

(a) There will be a serious shortage of transatlantic circuits in 1970, unless additional high-capacity facilities are now authorized. The following total equivalent voice-grade circuits will be required for applicants' individual requirements for the following periods:²

	END OF YEAR	
	1970	1972
A.T. & T.	1,006	1,612
ITTWC	91	118
RCAC	143	179
WUI	121	173
Total	1,361	2,082

Available transatlantic cable and radio facilities are becoming saturated, and based upon information supplied to the Commission by Comsat on October 30, 1967, all satellite facilities now scheduled to be available for transatlantic service will also be saturated by 1970. Any delay in providing additional facilities beyond that time would result in a critical shortage of transatlantic circuits.

(b) Given reasonably prompt authorizations, the proposed cable/radio system can be operational by early 1970 to help alleviate the anticipated circuit shortages; while, on the other hand, it is doubtful that the needed facilities can be made available at that time through the expansion of the satellite system.

(c) The proposed TAT-5 will provide diversification of transatlantic facilities and assure a reasonable balance between cables and satellites, enable a flexible choice of the best medium (cable or satellite) to fulfill customers' service requirements, and also provide cable circuits for use with satellite circuits in tandem to connect widely separated points (e.g. United States and India) which cannot be served satisfactorily by two satellite links because of the long transmission delay.

(d) The proposed system the first connecting the United States to Southern Europe, will permit a more direct cable route to southern Europe and the Mediterranean area, now reached via cables to northern Europe and thence via land-

² These figures were submitted in response to our informal inquiry of Oct. 4, 1967.