

In its Report for 1968-69 the BBC expressed the hope that it would be able to build a 700-foot mast for the BBC-1 and BBC-2 UHF transmissions at the ITA's Emley Moor station, where, as the result of severe ice loading, the Authority's 1,265-foot mast had collapsed in March 1968. Unfortunately, this proposal had to be abandoned because of legal and insurance problems, and so the BBC-2 service and, since 15th November, the BBC-1 and ITV UHF services from Emley Moor have had to be radiated from the BBC's 300-foot temporary mast and aerial pending the completing of the new concrete tower for the ITA. The BBC-2 transmissions from the 1,265-foot mast had reached well over $3\frac{3}{4}$ million people. Three million of them would have been able to receive the signal from the 700-foot mast. Two and a quarter million receive it from the 300-foot mast.

Colour Television

The start of the BBC-1 colour service in November called for additional colour facilities of all kinds, commensurate with the increase in colour transmissions from about 38 hours each week for BBC-2 alone to over 80 hours per week when those for BBC-1 were added. This has brought the number of colour television studios up to ten, including one at Lime Grove, the two new Television News studios at the Television Centre, and the Television Theatre at Shepherds Bush, which has now been converted to colour operation.

One of the biggest single tasks carried out by the Engineering Division was the provision and equipping of the News Headquarters at Television Centre for the transfer of BBC-1 and BBC-2 News from Alexandra Palace in September. The installation includes two colour studios, each equipped with four remotely-controlled cameras, a camera in the Newsroom and extensive colour film and video-tape replay equipment, together with associated processing, copying and editing facilities and new equipment of BBC design for the generation of composite pictures. The many automated features included in these facilities may well influence the equipment and practice adopted in other parts of the Television Service.

Preparations were made well in advance for the big increase in the number of colour Outside Broadcasts that was sure to follow the introduction of BBC-1's UHF colour service. The first colour mobile control room (CMCR) had been in use since July 1967 and two similar units were brought into service in 1967 and early 1968 respectively. As a result of operational experience with these units and of a survey of likely OB sites, it was found to be practicable to use a considerably larger vehicle which would afford major operating advantages to the staff. The second type of CMCR is therefore six feet longer than Type 1. The first of the longer units was introduced in March 1968 and five more have now been built and taken into service.

At the end of March about 350,000 colour receivers were in use.

Radio : Coverage and Reception

Interference in the medium-wave band from continental stations continued to be a serious problem after dark, especially during winter evenings. The