

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
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Birgitt Elisabeth Morrien, Diploma

THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN MASS COMMUNICATION

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| | |
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| INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY I (A) | 4 |
| INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY II (B) | 4 |
| TOTAL | 8 |

| COURSE NO | TITLE | CR HRS | GRADE | SEMESTER |
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| SEM 1 83-84 SPC 3.00 | | | | |
| SPC BF538 A1 | BODY & FILM | 4.0 | A | 16.0 |
| SPC BF553 A1 | FILM HIST CRIT I | 4.0 | A | 16.0 |
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|---------|---|
| 000-100 | non-degree credit |
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| 200-299 | intermediate undergraduate |
| 300-399 | advanced undergraduate |
| 400-499 | advanced undergraduate and initial graduate level |
| 500-599 | general graduate |
| 600-699 | advanced graduate |
| 700-799 | graduate oriented study and research |

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Boston University
School of Public Communication

Mass Communication Project:

International Satellite Communications -
A historical, political perspective

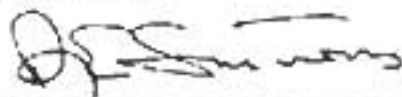
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Birgitt Elisabeth Morrison

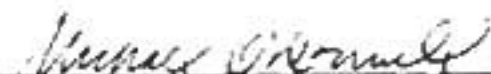
In partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Master of Science degree in
Mass Communications

January 1984

APPROVALS:



Associate Professor Robert E. Simmons



Assistant Professor Michael O' Donnell

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PREFACE

Communication satellites represent one of the most significant applications of space technology. Communication satellite experiments began early in the space age and since 1965 satellites have been employed in operational communication systems.

One indication of the growth of this field is that a new type of communication satellite has been, or will be, launched every year from 1965 to 1985. They are operated internationally, involving about 100 countries, for communication services of all types both small and large terminals on land and on ships. Furthermore, while some of these systems are government sponsored, others are commercial ventures that in some cases are in competition with the terrestrial communication industry.

Communication satellites provide an improved means of sending telephone, telegraph, radio and television signals and other data over vast areas. Their development, which is proceeding rapidly, could increase the ease of international communication.

Some people fear that this will lead to more intense propaganda and to cultural hegemony by the countries with the technological and economic leader-

ship. Others hope that it will lead to greater international understanding.

My intention is firstly to give an overview of international activities in the field of satellite communications, and secondly to explore the problems of possible conflict or cooperation that arise from satellites.

For the sake of the layman, Chapter 1 gives an outline of the technical characteristics of satellites.

Since the United States was the originator of the first international satellite organizations (INTELSAT, International Telecommunications Satellite Organization), Chapter 2 provides an historical review of INTELSAT and its U.S.-involvement.

Chapter 3 presents the activities in the field of satellite communications of other emerging alliances and nations. The international spectrum of satellite activities is covered by the end of Chapter 3.

Chapter 4 focuses upon the different organizations concerned with the legal and/or beneficial use of satellite communications. Furthermore, this Chapter examines the international discussion arising from the conflict private versus public/state ownership.

Chapter 5 summarizes the actual situation and

evaluates the current development in satellite communications.

It is undoubtedly evident that satellites are now a major communication medium, and will be more so in the future. For this reason, understanding their function, what they mean to the world now, and will mean to the world in coming times is of vital interest.

How are communication satellites used? Which countries have the lead in this field and how are they using or misusing their advantage?

A means of international communication, does by necessity have its historical and political implications.