New $83 Million Cable Connects U.S. With Japan

President Johnson Talks to Premier Ikeda, Opening Trans-Pacific Line

By EMERSON CHAPIN
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TOKYO, Friday, June 19—President Johnson and Premier Hayato Ikeda inaugurated today a new trans-Pacific submarine cable that will vastly speed communications between Japan and North America.

In an exchange of congratulatory telephone calls with Mr. Ikeda, Mr. Johnson, speaking from the White House, said: "The new cable between our countries is another welcome step toward transforming the Pacific from a barrier to a bridge between Asia and America."

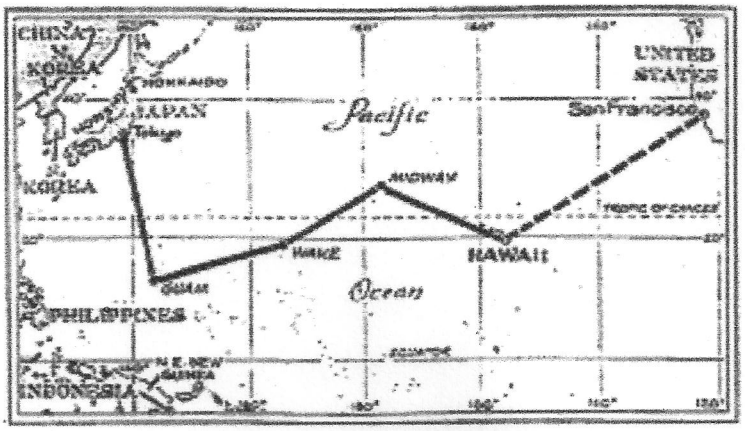
Mr. Ikeda, in the Premier's official residence here at 11:05 A.M., replied by expressing confidence that the new bond across the Pacific would "enable our peoples to deepen our mutual understanding."

The ceremonies marked the opening of a 5,300-mile coaxial cable connection between Japan and Hawaii, linking with the existing Hawaii-San Francisco cable. The new coaxial cable greatly increases the number of channels available for telephone and telegraph messages and speeds trans-Pacific communications to the point where direct phone calls can be placed in six to 10 minutes.

Ending the present dependence on shortwave radio, the new cable ensures stable communication free of costly and unpreventable meteorological interference.

The reception of the first calls was excellent. A select audience gathered in the Imperial Hotel here heard President Johnson's voice, magnified on a loudspeaker, come in almost as clearly as if he had been speaking on a public address system in the same room. The voices of other Americans, speaking from Washington, were heard with high clarity.

The ceremonial exchange seemed to have been delayed a few minutes at the Washington end. The audience here laughed when an awkward silence was



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New cable from Japan to Hawaii (solid line), joining the old line from Hawaii to San Francisco (dashes), will greatly expedite telephone service across the Pacific.

waii Telephone Company and Kokusai Denshin Denwa Kaisha (International Telegraph and Telephone Company) of Japan, jointly carried out the $83 million project.

The last link in the cable, the 1,658-mile connection between Japan and Guam, was completed May 15. Since then extensive testing has been carried out.

The cable, developed by A.T. &T., has 128 telephone channels with a band width up to three kilocycles. One telephone channel, with suitable equipment, can provide at least 20 telegraphic circuits.

For the first few months, only 12 channels of the new cable will be used, along with the present 12 radio-telephone channels. Opening of a new Hawaii-to-California cable in late summer will add 16 more channels in time for the heavy communications flow expected during the Olympic Games in Tokyo in October.

The present short-wave facilities have rapidly become inadequate as the volume of communication between Japan and North America has mounted. Magnetic storms and other atmospheric disturbances sometimes cause long delays and extreme distortion.

The new cable has deepsea repeaters every 20 miles to magnify the electric current and provide clear, accurate communication at all times.

It is expected that the United States-Japan cable will eventually become a vital part

Beginning today, it will be possible to make direct calls by cable from Tokyo to the United States, Alaska, Mexico, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Bermuda and the Virgin Islands.

Kokusai Denshin Denwa has announced that charges for phone calls to the United States are being reduced from $12 to $9 for a three-minute station-to-station call. Charges for person-to-person calls will remain unchanged.

Planning of the new cable began in 1959, after the first international coaxial cable opened between the United States and Europe in 1956 proved to be a success. the three participating companies signed an agreement in February, 1962, and construction began the following month.

Kokusai Denshin Denwa paid $36 million, and a large part of the cable was manufactured in Japan. Japanese hydrographic surveys provided the basis for determining the route of the final link in the cable across a sea area whose depth and uneven bottom surfaces constituted a particular challenge to engineers.

The 11,600-ton cable ship Long Lines, specially built for the project, was held up for several days in early May when the cable broke 90 miles south of Tokyo in rough seas.

The Japanese end of the new cable emerges from the sea at Ninomiya, near Oiso, on the shore of Sagami Bay, about 50 miles southwest of Tokyo. The terminal equipment in an earthquake-proof building at Nino-

followed by a statement that President Johnson was interrupted briefly in reaching the telephone in the White House.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Hawaiian Telephone Company ... of a world wide network, joining with a projected Japan-Southeast Asia cable and tied in at Hawaii with a planned Hawaii-to-Australia cable.

miya, is linked with the Tokyo headquarters of K.D.D. and the domestic Nippon Denwa Denshin Company in Tokyo by a microwave system.