

Dr. Wernher von Braun to deliver keynote address at 11th annual Tele-Communications Association Conference

September 21, 1973

Dr. Wernher von Braun, space exploration pioneer, will make use of a domestic satellite to deliver the keynote address to attendees at the 11th annual TeleCommunications Association Conference at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 26, at the Town and Country Convention Center in Mission Valley.

According to Don W. Shearer, President of TCA, when the Association was notified that Dr. von Braun, Vice President of Fairchild Industries and a director of American Satellite Corporation, had undergone major emergency surgery and would not be able to travel to San Diego to present his keynote address, arrangements were made with American Satellite for this live transmission.

Dr. von Braun will speak from his offices in Germantown, Maryland, via landline to American Satellite Corporation facilities nearby where the linkup to Canada's domestic satellite ANIK (an Eskimo word meaning brother) will be completed.

A transportable ground station will be set up outside the Town and Country Convention Center by TelePrompter Corporation to receive the satellite signal. The signal will be amplified at the station and carried to a video projector and projected on a large screen in the California Room at the convention center.

It is the first time that a domestic satellite will be employed to transmit television signals to San Diego from another city within the United States. This color transmission is the third such historic event in recent months. In June American Satellite transmitted a speech by house Speaker Carl Albert from Washington, D.C. to delegates attending a convention in Anaheim, California. Later that same day, the company transmitted the championship heavyweight Ellis-Shavers bout from New York's Madison Square Garden to the same convention.

The receiving ground station consists of a 25-foot receiving antenna mounted on a single tractor-trailer. The antenna, which can be disassembled for transport will be sighted to the southeast at an azimuth of 174 degrees true and an elevation of 51-3/4 degrees. Its receiving frequency is 3.7 to 4.2 GHz, the same frequencies used by AT&T in the direct distance dialing network.

The mobile receiving station and an exact model of the ANIK satellite will be available for public viewing beginning at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 25. Over 100 telecommunications exhibits featuring the latest designs and concepts in telecommunications equipment, will also be open to the public on Tuesday afternoon.

The TCA conference and exposition is one of the top telecommunications shows to be held in the United States each year. It is scheduled Tuesday through Friday (September 25-28) at the Town and Country with more than 500 exhibitors, members, and visitors expected to attend.

(September 21, 1973)