

## Dealers' chance

Viewstar Inc. is a Canadian company which manufactures amateur radio equipment for the North American market, and is now looking for distributors in the UK and Western Europe. Viewstar products include HF linear amplifiers, ATUs and filters.

Interested emporiums (emporiums?) can contact Viewstar's Marketing Representative, Harold M. Stevens, at 705 Progress Ave., Unit 53, Scarborough, Ont. M1H 2X1, Canada. Telex (21) 065-26242 VIEWSTAR TOR

## BOOKS

### Spies' bible



The *Confidential Frequency List* is a fascinating catalogue of all those signals between the HF amateur and broadcasting bands that you're not supposed to listen to.

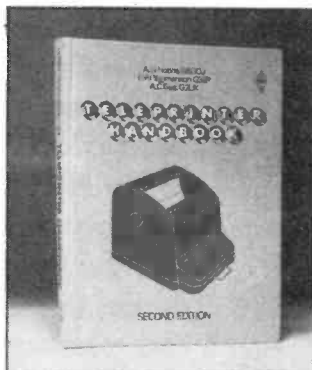
The book is based on the list of transmitters notified to the ITU's International Frequency Registration Board by individual governments, with the gaps filled in by a lot of less orthodox sources. The author and his 'collaborators' claim to regularly listen in to aeronautical, maritime, diplomatic and military channels. These operate in CW, SSB, AM, RTTY, FAX and TOR (coded Telex On Radio) modes, amongst others.

As well as listing everything heard in frequency order, this edition (5th) includes a *Confidential Callsign List*. By making intelligent guesses at likely callsigns, it's possible to find the frequency of almost anything. For instance, the callsign of the US President's plane, Air Force One, is, believe it or not, AF1! Another source of endless fascination is the HF telephone links to the Falkland Islands. Amateur stations there use the prefix VP8. By working on the principle that 'official' stations use similar prefixes to amateur ones, it doesn't take long to discover that the callsigns of the Falklands' links are VPC and VPC24. The list then gives the frequencies as 13.482, 19.950 and 24.145MHz. Great fun.

The Home Office points out that it is an offence under Section 5 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 to listen in to such transmissions deliberately, or to divulge any information gained if you do.

The book is imported by Amateur Radio Exchange and costs £7.80. I wonder how much that is in Roubles.

## Teleprinter Handbook



This book, now available in its 2nd edition, is a comprehensive guide to the theory and practice of amateur RTTY, and is very valuable for anyone seriously interested in this mode of operation.

The book includes a 156-page chapter on teleprinters, which gives system descriptions and maintenance information for

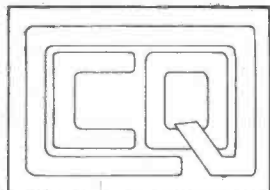
several commercial European and American machines. Other useful RTTY equipment, including test gear is described in detail elsewhere in the book, and there are designs for home-constructed equipment.

This book is a hardback, and contains hundreds of diagrams and close-up pictures.

The chapter titles are: Basic telegraph transmission theory (based on a British Telecom training pamphlet of the same name); Teleprinters; Other RTTY machines; Power supplies; Demodulators; Polarised relays; Keying methods; Filters; Test equipment; A video display unit; The Hellschreiber system; Control systems; The RTTY station; Operating procedures. There are also three appendices giving a glossary of commercial equipment, terminology and data.

The book concentrates on the more traditional Baudot RTTY techniques - there is little on more modern systems involving home computers, dot-matrix printers, ASCII or AMTOR for example. There is, however, a new chapter featuring a DIY video display unit designed by Peter Martinez G3PLX. This circuit, based on 74-series TTL, was featured in *Radio Communication* in 1977.

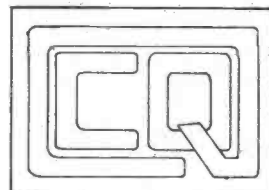
The *Teleprinter Handbook* is available from the RSGB and costs £12.00, or £13.84 by post.



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