

## An International Television Switching Centre for Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi, UAE capital, is soon to receive a major addition to its television capability when a project by GEC Telecommunications is completed in May, 1983.

Part of the project is an International Television Switching Centre provided by Marconi Communication Systems which will enable Abu Dhabi Television, run by the Ministry of

Information and Culture, to handle NTSC, PAL and SECAM signals passed through the satellite telecommunications earth station. Thus Abu Dhabi Television, which is based on the PAL standard, will be able to transmit NTSC and SECAM programmes from around the world to its viewers without complications.



*The switching centre undergoing final test at Chelmsford prior to its despatch to Abu Dhabi*

## Three Marconi VTRs for CTVC

CTVC at Bushey, Hertfordshire has just been equipped with three of the latest MR2B video tape recorders from Marconi Communication Systems of Chelmsford.

The Foundation for Christian Communication was originally endowed by Lord Rank in the 1950's as a place where clergy could be trained in the use of radio and, particularly, the new medium of television. Marconi has played a major part throughout its development in providing the Foundation with equipment and systems.

CTVC has grown from the modest beginnings where clergy learned to overcome their natural shyness when facing a television camera, to being a major centre providing a wide range of film and video facilities. It now boasts a comprehensive film library, the core of which is the old Religious Film Library; it produces film and television programmes both for religious and commercial purposes; it is also a film and video facilities house.

To provide the quality of video required to sustain their varied operations amid a tight working schedule, CTVC decided to bring in the latest Marconi MR2B VTR's. These machines were first introduced at NAB in Dallas, April 1982, since when more than 100 have been sold to customers world-wide. The MR2B is a helical 1"

C Format machine designed for the professional user. It is exceptionally

stable reliable and is attracting customers from a wide range of user-fields.



*Delivery of the VTRs was complicated by the difficult access at the CTVC premises. They were lifted over the house by crane and lowered, blind, on the far side to a first floor access point.*

## Marconi microwave antenna for BBC mobile TV unit

Engineers of the Transmitter Capital Projects Department of the BBC have designed and built a self-contained mobile communications unit which can be deployed rapidly to provide immediate pictures at important events.

It is essentially a radio link vehicle and two links are available, one operating at 2.5 GHz and the other at 7 GHz.

The 2.5 GHz system works into three electronic News Gathering (ENG) receiving sites in London at Millbank, Crystal Palace, and the Barbican, which are controlled from the Television News Central Apparatus room in the Spur at Television Centre.

The antenna, supplied by Marconi Communication Systems, is a dual-

helix design and is mounted on a pan-and-tilt head.

With its ability to be moved very quickly as soon as one transmission is completed and to re-establish communications at another location the unit will meet the requirement for the provision of brief topical material for such programmes as Breakfast Time, 60 Minutes and Newsnight



## Major export order for Marconi Broadcasting Division

When the Gulf States Conference is held in Qatar during November 1983, a new television outside broadcasting unit provided by Marconi Communication Systems will play a major part in covering the proceedings.

The Ministry of Information, Qatar, has placed an order with Marconi's Broadcast Division to provide a new four-camera outside broadcast van and to completely refurbish an existing three-camera unit.

The new van, based on a Bedford 16 ton 4x4 chassis, is to include four of the latest Marconi MK1XB automatic studio colour television camera channels and a full range of production facilities, spares and a comprehensive radio telephone-based talk-back/intercom system which interfaces with Qatar's public telephone network. Two microwave links, each comprising one video and two sound channels, and a towed, four-wheeled, 30kVA diesel generator, complete the system.

The smaller OB van that Marconi is refurbishing is to be equipped with three Marconi MK1XB studio camera channels, whilst the existing Marconi MKVIII cameras are redeployed to Qatar Television's studios. The refurb-



ishment includes a range of new equipment, part of which is a field synchronizer to update the remote/local synchronization techniques.

The Gulf States Conference is to be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Qatar, which has extensive conference

facilities, including a television system which uses Marconi cameras. Thus Marconi technology will play a major part in keeping the public, particularly in the Gulf region, informed during this important meeting in an influential part of the world.