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By Lawrence Laurent Staff Reporter

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Telstar and TV

'Live' Panorama of Two Continents Highlights Transatlantic Telecasts

By Lawrence Laurent
Staff Reporter

Television programs bounced across the Atlantic Ocean yesterday, giving an estimated two million viewers on two continents a panorama of some of the world's most famous landmarks and institutions.

This was the first formal exchange of live television programs between Europe and the United States. Two programs, each lasting about 18 minutes, were marred only by minor technical failures. In all, the transmission via the Telstar satellite was equal to that of local television sound and pictures.

The Telstar communications satellite was launched at Cape Canaveral only ten days before yesterday's telecast and

it performed magnificently. Telstar is a repeater satellite, a 34-inch ball that speeds through space at 16,000 miles an hour and is located from 575 to 3450 miles above the surface of the earth.

The intercontinental tele-

British editor amazed by 'miracle' of Telstar but criticizes content of program.
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casts were limited to 18 minutes, the maximum amount of time that Telstar can be used by ground stations in England, France and the United States. One of the future plans of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. calls for 26 ground stations, with 30 to 50 satellites. The system would cost

an estimated \$500 million and would lead to uninterrupted transmission of signals to and from any place on earth.

Yesterday's exchange, from the United States to Europe, at 2:45 p. m., and from Europe to North America, at 5:45 p. m., was watched by an estimated 2 million persons. The 16 nations that belong to the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, West Germany and Yugoslavia. There were also reports that the telecasts were received in North Africa, from European transmitters.

Iron curtain nations did not
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U. S. Exchanges TV Shows With Europe

receive the telecast. These countries are not members of the EBU, but belong to the Soviet-controlled Intervention network.

Other Shows Today

Almost immediately after yesterday's telecasts, plans were announced by American television networks for additional use of Telstar. The first international "Huntley-Brinkley Report" is scheduled at 5:30 p. m., today (NBC; WRC-TV). Chet Huntley will be in New York with David Brinkley in Paris. Two special Telstar transmissions from Europe to the United States will be made today by three CBS News correspondents. The programs will be fitted into regularly scheduled news programs.

Yesterday's broadcast began, fittingly, with a phrase borrowed from satellite crews. A European announcer said everything was ready at Brussels and said: "Go, America, Go"

Later, Howard K. Smith's signal for the Eurovision program to begin was, "Go, Europe, Go."

Showed Statue of Liberty

The first live look from America was a shot of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor. It was followed by scenes of a major league baseball game at Wrigley Field in Chicago. Spectators at the game cheered a public announcement that the event was being bounced to Europe and one of the Philadelphia players responded with a hit.

The transoceanic telecast also included a portion of President Kennedy's news conference. The President answered questions about nuclear testing, Congressional adjournment and the gold reserves before the program was shifted with apologies to Cape Canaveral, Fla., and astronaut John Glenn Jr.

Shifted to Mt. Rushmore

The American television crews, a combined effort of the three United States networks, with cooperation from the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., offered viewers a look at San Francisco's Golden Gate, Niagra Falls, the U. S. Mexican border at El Paso, Tex., and a brief performance by actor Christopher Plummer as "Macbeth" at the Stratford, Ontario, Shakespeare Festival.

Against a background of the

60-foot sculptured heads of American Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt at Mount Rushmore, S. D., the Mormon Tabernacle Choir of Salt Lake City sang "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

There were also scenes of the Space Needle at the Seattle World's Fair, shots of cowboys and one Indian in the Far West and several shots of the Washington Monument.

For a conclusion New World Television offered the Old World a respectful ten seconds of silence for the memory of Dag Hammarskjold, former United Nations Secretary General. This originated from the Meditations Room, created by Hammarskjold at the U. N. for members to observe silence and meditation.

The West to East telecast took place on the 123d orbit of Telstar. The Europe to America program was on the following orbit.

The key narrator for the European program was Richard Dimpleby of the British Broadcasting Corp.

Dimpleby was pleased to show off the high technical skill of European television. London policemen were seen talking to American tourists and crowds were seen hurrying up the Champs Elysees in Paris.

Showed Arctic Circle

Americans got a live look at a lovely girl in the Midnight Sun near the arctic circle in a scene from Sweden. It was followed by a glimpse of fishermen working in the Mediterranean.

To Frederic Chopin's music, the riding masters of the famed Spanish riding school at Vienna, Austria, demonstrated well-trained horses; this was followed by the launching of a lifeboat from a rocky coast at Cornwall, England.

There were pickups from the Square of the Republic in Belgrade, Yugoslavia; the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican, the Louvre in Paris; Geneva,

Switzerland; and Germany's Ruhr Valley.

The European telecast ended suddenly. Telstar had passed the range of the range of the ground station at Goonhilly Downs, Cornwall, England.

But every viewer had seen the world shrink to a smaller size and had learned that the distance from the Old World to the New had been reduced to a fraction of a second.