

BBC REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1968-69

On 19th March just after 5 p.m. the 1,265-foot ITA mast at Emley Moor collapsed as a result of severe ice loading, thus cutting off the main BBC-2 service, as well as ITV, to Yorkshire. The service of BBC-2 from the main station at Belmont in Lincolnshire and from the Sheffield relay station was also interrupted, because these stations re-transmit signals received from Emley Moor. But by 1.10 p.m. on 21st March BBC engineers had restored the Emley Moor BBC-2 service by using a mobile mast and aerial which had been rushed to the site. The service from Belmont was restored by 9.00 a.m. and the service from Sheffield by 5.00 p.m. on 21st, with the help of equipment for receiving BBC-2 signals from Waltham. The temporary service from Emley Moor was improved considerably on 7th April, after the erection of a 300-foot mast brought from the BBC station at Skelton in Cumberland. This restored the BBC-2 service to some $2\frac{1}{4}$ million people, more than half of those served before the mast collapsed. As the temporary 690-foot mast erected by the ITA was not strong enough to carry BBC aerials as well as those of the ITA, the BBC hoped to build (subject to planning permission and other agreements to be negotiated) a 700-foot mast for its BBC-1 and BBC-2 UHF transmissions.

BBC REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1969-70

In its Report for 1968-69 the BBC expressed the hope that it would be able to build a 700-foot mast for the BBC-1 and BBC-2 UHF transmissions at the ITA's Emley Moor station, where, as the result of severe ice loading, the Authority's 1,265-foot mast had collapsed in March 1968. Unfortunately, this proposal had to be abandoned because of legal and insurance problems, and so the BBC-2 service and, since 15th November, the BBC-1 and ITV UHF services from Emley Moor have had to be radiated from the BBC's 300-foot temporary mast and aerial pending the completing of the new concrete tower for the ITA. The BBC-2 transmissions from the 1,265-foot mast had reached well over $3\frac{3}{4}$ million people. Three million of them would have been able to receive the signal from the 700-foot mast. Two and a quarter million receive it from the 300-foot mast.