

AROFLEX



AROFLEX. The commercial version of the teleprinter was called the T-1000 while the crypto version was known as the 1000 CA. *(Photo provided by Ray White)*

The Aroflex device was used by the Department of Foreign Affairs (Canada) in the few missions where it was deployed for rapid and reliable encryption and decryption of messages. It consists of a Siemens 1000 CA teleprinter with a crypto unit bolted to the bottom. (CA means Cryptological Application). This device, first produced in 1976, was a Baudot machine (5 level) which could be set to run at 50, 75 or 100 baud on-line. In the off line mode, it operates at 100 baud.

It was the first all-electronic Siemens teleprinter and its design employed a microprocessor and a daisy wheel. After decryption, the plain text could either be printed or sent to a tape punch. The T-1000 was available in ASR, KSR or RO versions. External tape readers or punches operating at speeds up to 900 baud can be connected to the 1000 CA. For Siemens, this computer controlled machine was the high point of the Telex era.

The crypto unit was made by a Norwegian manufacturer. It can store up to 25 different daily keys, two of which were reserved for special traffic. The correct daily key was automatically selected at the beginning of decryption. One of its endearing features was the fact that an operator could use the device without removing it from the shipping case.

Researched by Jerry Proc. <http://www.jproc.ca/crypto>