I. THE SHORAN RADIOPOSITIONING SYSTEM (continued)

mobile station to interrogate each base station in turn, as previously described. The third frequency is utilized by the base stations to retransmit the received pulses back to the mobile station. Both base stations transmit on the single frequency in order to utilize a single receiver at the mobile station.

The propagation characteristics of VHF/UHF radio signals is such that they tend to travel in straight lines. While they are refracted in the atmosphere to some small extent, they do not tend to follow the earth's curvature as do radio signals of considerable lower frequency. They lack the ability to "see" beyond the radio horizon. Thus the Shoran system is essentially a "line of sight" system, with the maximum range being limited, to a large extent, by the heights of the mobile and base station antennas.

The range of the system under particular conditions may be estimated from the relationship

$$d = k (\sqrt{h_1} + \sqrt{h_2})$$

where,

d = estimated maximum range, in miles
h_1 = height of mobile station antenna, in feet, above sea level
h_2 = height of base station antenna, in feet, above sea level
k = empirical range factor