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FILE

Broadcasting NLS

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 February 1981

The Prime Minister was grateful to the Home Secretary for giving her an early sight of the proposed new BBC Charter and Licence and Agreement, which is to be discussed in H Committee later this week.

As I told you on the telephone, the Prime Minister has raised two points. Firstly, in respect of the arbitration provisions in paragraph 13(i)(a) of the Charter, she would like confirmation that the agreements do not provide for unilateral access to arbitration.

Secondly, the Prime Minister has asked whether these documents would absolutely forbid advertising on every programme. If this is the case, the Prime Minister has asked whether it might now be appropriate to permit it with the Secretary of State's consent.

~~T. P. LANKESTER~~

M. A. PATTISON

BF 27/2/81
Andrew Jackson, Esq.,
Home Office.

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- 1. MR. WHITMORE *In view of your close interest in the new BBC charter we have encouraged Mr Whitelaw to consult you about his proposals before he puts them to his other colleagues.*
- 2. PRIME MINISTER

*AMH
4:11*

Mr. Whitelaw offers a preview of his paper for H on the BBC Charter and Licence and Agreement. His covering minute explains the two significant changes. You will probably be most interested in the first of these, on programme obligations. The relevant passages in the revised text are to be found in paragraph 13(6) and (7) of the Licence and Agreement (our Flag A) and in the Resolution of the Board of Governors which is to be annexed to the Licence and Agreement (our Flag B).

Content that the Home Secretary should put these proposals to colleagues in H Committee?

Would you like him to report to you further after the discussion, before he implements the decisions of the Committee?

① 13 (a) - arbitration; provision for
 1 later in the agreement does not provide for unilateral arbitration. *MM*

② 15 advertising absolutely forbidden
 on every programme? If so
 ought we not to permit it
 now with S.G.'s consent.
not.

17 February 1981