

Previous ref. on
GERMANY - Visit of Herr
Stobbe; March 1979 2

Prime Minister



I asked about this
in the light of your
remark to the Mayor of Berlin
that there should be no
cuts in our broadcasts to Communist-dominated countries.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 June 1979

Dear Bryan,

BBC Vernacular Services

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In your letter of 25 May you asked about the position of
certain of the BBC's foreign language broadcasts.

No changes have been made recently in the vernacular services
to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. But as part of a general
review of the vernacular services officials have been considering
the possibility of reducing the broadcasting hours of the
German Service. This Service is broadcast to both the German
Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. A
reduction would, therefore, affect listeners in the GDR. In
view of the cuts which we have been asked to make in spending
plans, we see no alternative to examining cuts of this kind.

The possibility will no doubt come up again for discussion
in the course of the current review of PESC provisions in the
period 1980-83, but FCO Ministers will be consulted before any
decision is taken.

Yours ever
G G H Walden

G G H Walden

B G Cartledge Esq
10 Downing Street

I hope they will not make
cuts in BBC services to
Communist countries.
no