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Prime Minister

(2)

Mr Jenkins tries to

Keep up the pressure

Mrs 18/3

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Secretary of State for Industry

16 March 1982

The Rt Hon W Whitelaw CH MC MP
Secretary of State for the
Home Department
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AT

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Dear Willie,

'E' Committee decided this morning to remit the issues raised in my paper on Future Telecommunications Policy for further consideration by a small Ministerial Committee. I hope that we can keep the delays resulting from this to a minimum. Meanwhile, publication of the ITAP report on Cable Systems next Monday provides an opportunity for the debate on DBS, cable and related broadcasting issues foreshadowed in your recent and well received statement on DBS. I recognise that you will want to precede the debate with a statement on cable and your intention to appoint the Three Wise Men, together with their terms of reference. I hope that you will be in a position to do this sufficiently soon to permit the debate to take place before Easter. And I should like to urge Francis Pym to provide the necessary Parliamentary time for this.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Francis Pym, Michael Jopling, Kenneth Baker and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever

Ratcliffe

18 MAR 1982

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