

**Mullard Limited Mullard House Torrington Place London WC1E 7HD**

6th March 1985

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Prime Minister

CABLE SYSTEMS

The Information Advisory Panel examined the subject of cable systems three years ago and our published report preceded a wave of interest in the subject and the prospect of making the UK a "wired society".

Since then, after the initial enthusiasm, the uncertainties around the development of cable have slowed down the rate of progress. We decided sometime ago to revisit cable as part of a review of the wider information technology strategy but we were advised, towards the end of last year, that Ministers would welcome a view from us by the end of February. As a result we have concentrated on this issue and, in the time available, sought evidence from the cable industry, and, in particular, the eleven pilot franchise companies, but also from outside research bodies and the Government agencies concerned in this field, including the Cable Authority.

Unfortunately, the sudden illness of our Chairman - Mr Charles Read - has delayed our final report and he has asked me, in his absence, to finalize and to send to you our conclusions. We have written this paper as an internal advice to Ministers rather than for publication and as in all our work it represents our views rather than an industry consensus view of the situation. We do not claim, therefore, that it is an indepth study, rather a distillation of the present situation with recommendations in those areas where Government action might improve the situation.

We continue/

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We continue to believe that cable systems are a vital part of Britain's future both in the way the country uses them and as a provider of wealth and jobs. We do, therefore, urge on Government that it adopts the measures we suggest to set up the right atmosphere.

As always, we remain at your and Ministers' disposal for further discussion on the subject.

Yours sincerely

I H Cohen

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