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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

WHITEHALL. LONDON SW1A 2AT

21 May 1986

Want HB comments

Dear Douglas

PUBLIC ORDER BILL: INCITEMENT TO RACIAL HATRED - BROADCASTING

Thank you for your letter of 20 ~~May~~ at Prep. about introducing an amendment to legislate against racial incitement in broadcasting.

In the interests of getting this Legislation through, I am extremely anxious to avoid Government amendments introducing new issues into the Bill. However, I think we could manage an amendment which would not involve the broadcasting authorities. But if the controversial issue of the broadcasting authorities is to be included, then I have to warn that this will take up much time in what is already a congested session. Also, with the best will in the world, I would not fancy the chances of getting such an amendment through against the violent opposition of the cluster of ex-BBC and IBA chairmen, ex-BBC governors and members of the IBA, Lord Annan and many others. If you insist, we will of course try our best, but really the Lords is the last place in which to introduce such an amendment which has not been put before the Commons.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the members of H Committee, First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP

HONG AFFAIRS Public Order PT2