

cc Bishop

PRIME MINISTER

VIDEO MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL
COMMUNICATIONS

You agreed to record a brief video message
for the Japanese International Digital
Communications, which is holding a celebration
in Tokyo to mark the introduction of inter-
national service. This was as a favour to
Sir Eric Sharp.

I attach a short text which we will have
on the tele-prompter for you. You will
see that it uses acronyms such as IDC and
MPT. The DTI say that these will be familiar
to all those attending the celebration in
Tokyo who will hear the message.

CDA

CHARLES POWELL

12 May 1989

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INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS (IDC)

RECEPTION

18 MAY 1989

PRIME MINISTER'S VIDEO PRESENTATION

Minister

Chairman, President, distinguished guests, this

is, ~~indeed~~, a very special day for IDC,

MPT and the telecommunications community

in Japan.

I am delighted to have been given this

opportunity to take part in your

celebrations.

I followed IDC's progress with great interest

right from the beginning, and this message

will, I hope, underline that my interest
(~~in the IDC venture~~) is a continuing one.

Two years ago, it was far from certain that
^{aspirations}
IDC's ~~ambitions~~ could be realised. With
its substantial foreign shareholding, IDC
became a real test of Japan's willingness
to play its part in the international
trading community.

Japan had to show it could do so on equal

terms with those countries like the United Kingdom, which have always welcomed, indeed encouraged, overseas investment.

In licensing IDC for the provision of international telecommunication services, the Japanese Government clearly demonstrated Japan's willingness to follow that example.

The licensing of not one but two companies

to provide competition for the existing
operator ^{was} ~~represented~~ a remarkable step.

Looking at ~~all~~ this from a purely British

point of view, it is very gratifying to
find that companies like Cable & Wireless,
British Telecom and Barclays Bank have all
chosen to become participants in one or
other of these consortia.

Today, however, belongs to IDC - a company with a blend of some of the finest skills to be found in Britain, the United States and Japan.

For the management to have overcome all the linguistic, cultural and technical problems and to have hit the company's first target service date is a tremendous feat.

It is a great credit to your ability to

deliver on time and a real tribute to a
very special brand of international
partnership.

I congratulate IDC on the progress made so far
and wish the company well in meeting the
challenges still to come.