

PRIME MINISTER

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To note that the Home Secretary proposes to include enabling legislation in the Cable and Broadcasting Bill, to permit the IBA to provide independent national radio (INR).

INR is expected to be commercially viable, but there is a dispute with the Treasury about the initial financing of transmitter construction (paragraphs 5 to 8). The sum involved is small (£2½m), and the dispute should surely not be allowed to hold up the introduction of commercial competition and greater diversity in national radio broadcasting.

DMS

3 February, 1984