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FILE

12 VLB  
Broadcasting  
CC CO  
MAP  
Ingham  
Walker  
Hortons

cc HMT

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 November 1979

Television Licence Fees

The Prime Minister has now had an opportunity to consider the Home Secretary's minute of 31 October, and she agrees with his proposals - including increases in the licence fees of £9 for colour T.V. sets and £2 for monochrome sets to be announced on 23 November.

The Prime Minister has noted what the Home Secretary says about advertising on B.B.C. Radio programmes, and has decided that - on reflection - it would be a mistake for the Home Secretary even to raise the possibility of the B.B.C.'s accepting radio advertising at this stage. Thus, while the Home Secretary should certainly make it clear to the B.B.C. that they must live within the limits set by the licence fees increase, he should not for the moment say that "the Government for its part would not exclude the possibility of the B.B.C.'s accepting advertising on Radio 1 or B.B.C. local radio." But she would not like to rule this out for all time, and has suggested that the Home Secretary might like to consider putting forward a paper for collective discussion - possibly in H Committee.

The Prime Minister was also grateful for the note attached to your letter of 31 October which discusses certain other issues which she raised with the Home Secretary when they met on 28 September.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Tony Battishill (H.M. Treasury).

T. P. LANKESTER

John Chilcot, Esq.,  
Home Office.

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