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Secretary of State for Industry

29 October 1982

Rt Hon William Whitelaw CH MC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

Prime Minister

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2/n

Dear Willie,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October about your proposed response to the Merriman report.

2 I am glad to hear that you have decided to accept the report's main recommendation on the future use of TV Bands I and III. I am particularly conscious of the potential benefits to the economy that will flow from the expansion of the mobile radio manufacturing industry following the release of the two bands to land mobiles. The increased use of mobile radio should also improve the efficiency of many of our industries, most notably the transport industry. This decision will of course deprive the broadcasters of the use of these bands but Dr Merriman was right in concluding that, in contrast to mobile land radio, TV information services could be provided by the use of other parts of the radio spectrum.

3 The report underlines the need to increase as a matter of urgency the allocation of spectrum for mobile radio and I hope that it will be possible to agree to an accelerated programme of closure for the TV 405 line transmitters. I share your concern that there is a risk of interference between existing cable televisions and land mobiles operating on Bands I and III, but I understand that the Radio Regulatory Department intends to carry out a practical study of the size and nature of the problem. My officials have offered their full co-operation and I hope that it will be possible to set this work in hand at the earliest possible date. We will then have the benefit of a full assessment of the nature of the problem which also has implications for the new wide band cable systems whose future Ministers will shortly have to consider.

4 I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E Committee, the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Your ever
Ratall

Broadcasting: Review of the Radio Frequency Spectrum
between 300 & 960 MHz
April 1982



APR 11 1982

