



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

LV Appleyard Esq  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AL

A. J. C. <sup>13</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 12 April 1984  
p.a.

Dear Sir

PROPOSED REVIEW OF THE BBC EXTERNAL SERVICES

The Chief Secretary has seen the recent exchange of correspondence on this subject and is anxious that the proposed review is seen in the right perspective.

There is no intention on our part to create another row over the External Services. But we do consider it important from our point of view that the External Services, which are wholly funded from the Exchequer, should be subject to the same periodic review of ~~the~~ efficiency and effectiveness as other parts of the public sector. There is certainly no intention on our part to get at the BBC and we would hope that a review would produce some helpful savings to offset the perennial pay problems which the External Services seem to have. Perhaps we need to reconsider the presentational aspects of the review.

We are also concerned about the BBC's proposals for widening the terms of reference for the review. In the Chief Secretary's view nothing is more likely to excite the external services lobby than to include objectives or priorities within the scope of the review. In his view the Government should make plain that it is not calling in question the present objectives but is reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness with which they are pursued.

We would be grateful if you would keep us in touch with any developments.

Copies of this letter go to John Coles and to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President, the Home Secretary and Lord Gowrie.

Yours sincerely

J. Gieve

JOHN GIEVE



73 APR 1984

11 12 1  
8 2  
8 3  
7 3 4  
6 1

V. S. C. V. S.