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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

1 July 1986

Ms C Pelham
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for the Home Department

DRN seen

Dear Clare,

PEACOCK REPORT

with DRN/PM Box
The Chancellor has seen your letter to David Norgrove of 30 June covering a revised draft oral statement on the Peacock Report.

The Chancellor was very concerned that the comment at the bottom of page 3 of the draft

"but the Government does not share the apparent view of the Peacock Committee that there is nothing in the nature of the broadcast medium itself to require special regulatory arrangements"

is not in accordance with the conclusions of the Prime Minister's meeting. This is borne out by the point in the first full paragraph of page 2 of Mr Norgrove's minute of the meeting circulated on 25 June

"At this stage the Home Secretary's statement should be firm in saying that any future systems must be no weaker than it was now. A possible line to take in answer to questions would be to say that if the existing system of regulation were abolished it would be necessary to consider whether the existing law of the land was adequate. The regulation of programme content would need to be further considered during the course of future detailed study of the Report's recommendations."

I am copying this letter to Joan Macnaughton (Lord President's Office), John Mogg (Department of Trade and Industry), Andrew Lansley (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), Michael Stark (Cabinet Office) and David Norgrove (No. 10).

Yours

Cathy

CATHY RYDING
Assistant Private Secretary

BROADCASTING : BBC Finances : Pt 2

