

CCBS



pa.

CABINET OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Tel No: 233 3299
7471

22 October 1986

Nigel Wicks Esq
Principal Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your letter of 21 October concerning ITN representations against possible plans by the BBC to start a world television news service.

I regret that I had not previously been aware of this correspondence. I find that David Nicholas, Editor, ITN, wrote to the Chairman of the Party, in that capacity on 29 September. Mr Tebbit then wrote from Conservative Central Office to Sir Geoffrey Howe on 14 October, and he acknowledged the letter from Mr Nicholas. Also, his office wrote to Stephen Sherbourne on 14 October, enclosing a copy of Mr Nicholas' letter and asking that it might be drawn to the Prime Ministers' attention.

Copies of the correspondence are enclosed for your reference.

I am sending a copy of this letter, and its enclosures, to Tony Galsworthy (FCO) and to Stephen Boys Smith (Home Office).

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Lansley

ANDREW LANSLEY
Private Secretary

ENC

14 OCTOBER 1986

I ENCLOSE A COPY OF A LETTER FROM DAVID NICHOLAS,
EDITOR OF ITN, ON WHICH I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS
AND ADVICE.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT SINCE THERE IS NO BASIS ON
WHICH TO ASSUME BBC TV NEWS WOULD GIVE A BETTER SERVICE,
NOR A FAIRER PICTURE OF EVENTS THAN ITN, IT WOULD BE
QUITE WRONG TO GIVE A SUBSIDY TO BBC WITHOUT A FAIR
COMPETITION.

THE RT. HON. SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, QC, MP.

NICHOLAS

7AM

14 OCTOBER 1986

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 29TH SEPTEMBER.
I HAVE TO CONFESS THAT I WAS NOT AWARE OF THE PROPOSAL
FOR WORLD TV NEWS SERVICE.

I HAVE, THEREFORE, TAKEN THIS UP WITH
GEOFFREY HOWE TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT IS PROPOSED AND
HOW FAR THE MATTER HAS PROGRESSED.

DAVID NICHOLAS, ESQ.
EDITOR
INDEPENDENT TELEVISION NEWS LTD.

14TH OCTOBER 1986

DEAR STEPHEN,

THE CHAIRMAN HAS RECEIVED THE ATTACHED
LETTER FROM DAVID NICHOLAS, EDITOR OF ITN, WHICH
HE HAS TAKEN UP WITH SIR GEOFFREY HOWE. HOWEVER,
HE HOPES THAT YOU WILL DRAW THIS TO THE ATTENTION
OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

YOURS SINCERELY,

ALEXANDRA MENNELL
CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE, ESQ.
