



CONFIDENTIAL

FCS/86/269

CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER

World Television Service

1. We had a word about the letter from David Nicholas of ITN which you forwarded to me under cover of your letter of 14 October.

2. I have now seen the BBC's proposal for a World Television Service. As a first step I have arranged a meeting with my officials on 4 December to discuss it and the wider implications of satellite broadcasting, including the interests of ITN and others in the field.

3. I shall keep you informed as our thinking on the FCO aspects of this subject develops. You may rest assured that we have always made it clear, both to the BBC External Services and to ITN, that the private sector will be given a chance to make their own proposals. Nor do I start with any preconception for or against public funding: the arguments need to be carefully considered.

4. In view of the Prime Minister's interest, I am copying this minute to her, as well as to Douglas Hurd, Nigel Lawson, Paul Channon and Sir Robert Armstrong.

GEOFFREY HOWE

18 November 1986

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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BROADCASTING: BBC BPT3

