

CERSG  
CCPC

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

CABINET OFFICE,  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2ASTel No: 233 3299  
747121<sup>st</sup> November 1986

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign  
and Commonwealth Affairs  
Foreign Office  
Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

Prime Minister 2.

mb

R-Geoffrey

## WORLD TELEVISION SERVICE

Thank you for your minute of 18 November. I have also seen Mr Wicks' letter of 19 November, recording the view of the Prime Minister.

I should say that I share the Prime Minister's view. It may be unfortunate that the BBC have not been disabused at an early stage of the idea that a Government subsidy might be forthcoming to support a service of this kind, particularly since there are competing developments by ITN, which will proceed further as satellite broadcasting grows.

I am sure it would be helpful if, in the wake of your discussion of 4 December, an early conclusion can be reached on the point concerning a subsidy. Separately perhaps Douglas Hurd may care to comment on whether any limitation should be set upon the potential use of licence fee income by the BBC on extraneous activity of this kind.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, Douglas Hurd, Nigel Lawson, Paul Channon and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

NORMAN TEBBIT

BROADCASTING

BBC

PT 3

