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PM/86/079

NBIA at this stage

PRIME MINISTER

Green Paper on Radio Policy

File with DEN

1. I am grateful to the Home Secretary for altering the earlier guidelines, and so reflecting the foreign policy and national interest worries set out in my minute of 20 June to him on this subject.

2. I agree with the comments of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in his Private Secretary's letter of 2 December. I also share the concern expressed in the Secretary of State for the Environment's minute of 4 December, although I would prefer to see the requirements for "balanced coverage" to be in addition to avoiding giving "undue prominence" to views and opinions on controversial matters. I hope it will be possible to amend the paper to take account of these comments.

3. On this basis I am content for these and other drafting points to be dealt with by my officials. I am sending copies of this minute to Douglas Hurd, to other members of MISC 128, Nicholas Ridley and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office
8 December 1986

GEOFFREY HOWE

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BROADCASTING: Legislation: Pt 2

