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FOREIGN SECRETARY

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON MASS MEDIA POLICY: 9 - 10 DECEMBER

Thank you for your minute of 8 December about the recent Vienna Conference on Mass Media Policy.

I am writing to confirm the successful outcome of the Conference from a United Kingdom point of view. All member states agreed to the rapid preparation of a binding Convention on transfrontier broadcasting, the scope and contents of which will be discussed by officials at a meeting in Strasbourg in March. As I indicated in my letter of 2 December, I am hoping that the Convention can be drawn up broadly on the lines of what has already been agreed in the Existing Council of Europe recommendations in this area. It is important that we maintain the momentum that Vienna has generated.

I was interested in your views about the future of the EC draft Directive. I understand from my officials that there is a firm consensus among member states in Brussels against these sensitive and controversial matters being decided by a qualified majority vote. My own view is that it would not be sensible to have two binding European instruments on these matters and that the Vienna decision makes the eventual adoption of an EC Directive more unlikely than before.

I am copying this minute to the recipients of the previous correspondence.

Douglas Hurd.

17 December 1986

D.B.S. ; BROADCASTING

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