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Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

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30 March 1987

Robert Culshaw Esq
Private Secretary to the Secretary of
State for Foreign and Commonwealth
Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
LONDON
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MBA

Dear Robert,

EXTERNAL TV BROADCASTING

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Thank you for your minute of 27 March recording the meeting of 24 March about the prospects for external TV broadcasting.

You set out some assumptions on which the draft paper is to be based. May I offer one comment about these? In a reply to the BBC, I think it may be wrong to go so far as to "encourage" them to develop a TV news product. For the present, it may be sufficient to rule out a global subsidy, which was the basis of their proposal, and allow the BBC to consider whether an alternative is available. If a satisfactory means can be found of putting ITN and BBC on an equal footing, and if a specific requirement were identified for which the Government would wish to receive tenders, then one might go on to encourage the BBC to put forward a proposal.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Charles Powell (No. 10), Stephen Boys-Smith (Home Office), Jill Rutter (Treasury) and Timothy Walker (DTI).

Andrew Lansley
A. Lansley

ANDREW LANSLEY
Private Secretary

