

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

MISC 128

The purpose of this meeting is to take stock of the progress on formulating a comprehensive broadcasting policy post-Peacock; to check that planning is on course for the consultation and further decisions that will be needed for a White Paper which the Home Secretary proposes to publish later this year and for a major Bill next Session; and to take, or confirm, two or three decisions on major points on which the Home Secretary needs his instructions now.

Item 1 is the overview paper that you agreed the Home Secretary should produce when you had a bilateral with him recently. It will be an opportunity for you to give the Home Secretary any steer that you think he needs at this stage.

Item 2 brings forward some major ITV issues. The Home Secretary, the Chancellor and the Trade and Industry Secretary should, however, be in agreement on all the important points.

Item 3 is a question whether there is a disagreement between the Home Secretary (and perhaps the Lord President) on the one hand and the Chancellor and Lord Young on the other about the forcefulness with which the Government should pursue its policy on independent producers, ~~with the BBC~~. This will need full discussion, since Mr. Hurd needs to be given clear negotiating instructions.

Item 4 is a last minute addition to the agenda by the Home Secretary. It discusses unused television night hours, where there are potential opportunities for experiment. No firm decisions are needed at this stage.

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DAVID NORGROVE

17 July 1987

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PRIME MINISTER

MISC 128: *220* JULY

The purpose of this meeting is to take stock of the progress on formulating a comprehensive broadcasting policy post-Peacock; to check that planning is on course for the consultation and further decisions that will be needed for a White Paper which the Home Secretary proposes to publish later this year and for a major Bill next Session; and to take, or confirm, two or three decisions on major points on which the Home Secretary needs his instructions now.

Item 1 is the overview paper that you agreed the Home Secretary should produce when you had a bilateral with him recently. It will ^{be an} ~~provide the opportunity for the Group to discuss the overall strategy and for you to give the Home Secretary any steer that you think he needs at this stage. Broadly, the whole package appears to be developing in a way that the Group ought to endorse without too much trouble.~~

Item 2 brings forward some major ITV issues. The Home Secretary, the Chancellor and the Trade and Industry Secretary should, however, be in agreement on all the important points, ~~and this item should be straightforward.~~

is a question where there is
Item 3 ~~exposes what, on present form, is a disagreement between the Home Secretary and his senior colleagues about the forcefulness with which the Government should pursue its policy on independent producers with the BBC. This will require full discussion, since the Home Secretary needs to be given clear negotiating instructions.~~
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And Lord (any other)
need
to Hurd

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It discusses unused television night hours, there are potential opportunities for experiment.

Item 4 is a last minute addition to the agenda by the Home Secretary. ~~The most that can be done is to take note of the way in which he intends to approach the Peacock recommendation on unused television night hours. No firm decisions are needed at this stage, and it would not matter greatly if the item was not discussed in detail.~~

~~Briefs on items 2 and 3 are attached. Those on items 1 and 4 will come forward shortly.~~

AJL

A J LANGDON
16 July 1987

DRN