



HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

30 July 1987

7  
*Dear Nigel,*

SEMINAR ON BROADCASTING TECHNOLOGY AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

Thank you for your letters of 24 and 29 July about this. I have already replied about the date.

THEME

I note what you say about the theme. We will produce, perhaps in a little slower time, a short annotated agenda of the kind you suggest.

GUEST LIST

We have the following comments on the guest list:

- (i) Mr Richard Hooper would be a very good alternative to Mr Levison. We do not think you would wish to have both;
- (ii) we note that you have identified Mr Alex Dickson as the Scottish independent radio contributor at various meetings with the Prime Minister. The real power at Radio Clyde, however, is the Managing Director, Mr Jimmy Gordon CBE. He would certainly be a very good alternative to Mr Findlay;
- (iii) we agree that it would be sensible to have someone from Channel 4. We suggest that Mr Jeremy Isaacs, the Chief Executive, would be the best person. An alternative would be Sir Richard Attenborough, its newly appointed Chairman;
- (iv) we have no comments on the additional names proposed of Mr Michael Grade, Mr David Nicholas and Mr Ian McIntyre. Mr Michael Caine is not, however, the Deputy Chairman of the IBA and we suggest not the member of the Authority most likely to make a contribution to an occasion of this kind. We suggest, with DTI support, that Mr John Whitney, the Director General, would make the best candidate;
- (v) on reflection, it occurs to us that the list is short on expertise about the operation of cable systems. (It does include a number of cable programme providers). We suggest, with DTI support, that you might consider including Mr Nicholas Mellersh of the Cable Television Association.

As you suggested, we have been in touch with DTI at official level about other names. As a result both Departments support the inclusion, in addition to the names above, of the following:

- (i) Mr John Jackson, Chairman of Direct Broadcasting Limited (DBL), one of the unsuccessful contenders for the DBS contract;
- (ii) Mr Tim Bevan, an independent film producer, who has made material for Channel 4;
- (iii) a spokesman for the advertising interests: perhaps Mr Kenneth Miles of the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA), or Mr John Perris, Saatchi and Saatchi;
- (iv) Mr Michael Green, Chairman, Carlton Communications (a personal suggestion of Lord Young.) Presumably we would not want Mr Phillis, also of Carlton Communications, as well;
- (v) Mr Ivor Cohen, Mullards, a DTI consultant on technical issues;
- (vi) Mr Richard Price, Richard Price Associates, film producer;
- (vii) Mr John Holt, Space and Communications Division, British Aerospace.

Mr William Brown, Chairman of Scottish Television, or Mr David Reay, Chairman of Tyne Tees Television, would be possible alternatives to Mr McCall as representatives of the non-network ITV companies.

On this basis the complete list would be as follows:

Sir Ian Trethowan  
 Mr David Graham  
 Mr David McCall (or Mr William Brown or Mr David Reay)  
 Mr Richard Hooper  
 Mr Charles Jonscher  
 Sir Alan Peacock  
 Mr Michael Darlow  
 Mr John Birt  
 Mr Andy Birchall  
 Mr Graham Grist  
 Mr James Gordon  
 Mr Michael Grade  
 Mr David Nicholas  
 Mr Ian McIntyre  
 Mr John Whitney  
 Mr Jeremy Isaacs (or Sir Richard Attenborough)  
 Mr John Jackson  
 Mr Tim Bevan  
 Mr Kenneth Miles (or Mr John Perris)  
 Mr Michael Green  
 Mr Ivor Cohen  
 Mr Richard Price  
 Mr John Holt  
 Mr Nicholas Mellersh

I attach a draft letter of invitation, together with the addresses of the people named above.



You mention that the Home Secretary and a DTI Minister will be present and that you will come back to me on the attendance of officials. I should appreciate a word about that. The Home Secretary considers it essential that Mr Renton, as the Minister with day-to-day responsibility for broadcasting matters, should also attend: perhaps you would let me know the Prime Minister's view.

A copy of this letter goes to Tim Walker (DTI).

*Yours sincerely,*

*P J C Mawer*

P J C MAWER

N L Wicks, Esq.



*DRAFT LETTER*

*TO Sir Ian Trethowan*

*SIGN BY PS TO PM*

*SEMINAR ON BROADCASTING TECHNOLOGY AND GOVERNMENT POLICY*

*The Prime Minister would like to hold a seminar to provide an informal discussion about broadcasting policy and the impact of prospective technological developments. The theme of the discussion would be:*

*Future prospects for the broadcasting world in the light, in particular, of prospective technological developments; and suggestions on how the Government should react~~ion~~.*

*As you will know the Government is working towards the introduction of a major Broadcasting Bill setting the framework for the future development of broadcasting in the light of technological developments, and in the light of the analysis and recommendations of the Report of the Committee on Financing the BBC (the Peacock Report).*

*The Prime Minister would be grateful if you could take part in this seminar, to be followed by lunch, on <sup>21</sup> September. If so I will send you later on a short note to provide a basis for discussion. Some of the participants will indeed be invited to come prepared to speak briefly on particular items to get discussion going and I hope that, if asked, you would be happy to do that. Perhaps you could let me know if you are able to join this occasion.*

*<mc>Drft/Ltr/PS/Brdcstrs/Invit*





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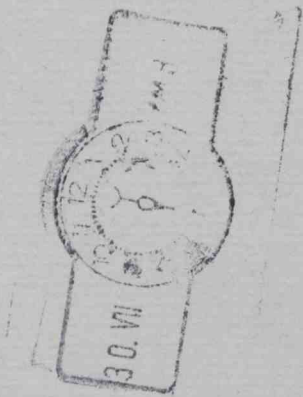
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E.R.



BROADCASTING  
SEMINAR  
3/17



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

29 July 1987

SEMINAR ON BROADCASTING TECHNOLOGY AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

When I wrote to you on 24 July, I said that we would try to discover the name of the enterprising member of the Scottish local commercial radio station who has made a vigorous contribution at various meetings with the Prime Minister. As a result of some detective work, I believe that the man concerned is Alex Dickson, Programme Controller of Radio Clyde. I therefore suggest that his name should be substituted in the guest list for that of Mr. Richard Findlay.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Tim Walker (Department of Trade and Industry).

(N.L. WICKS)

Philip Mawer, Esq.,  
Home Office.

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DCACB1  
b2 B1





10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

BROADCASTING SEMINAR

The date which we originally chose, 28 September, is inconvenient for the Home Secretary since he has a long arranged meeting with Home Office Ministers at Chevening that day to discuss departmental policy.

I am therefore arranging the seminar for the previous Monday, 21 September.

N.L.W.

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N.L. WICKS

28 July 1987

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

Th. S. T. S. H.

Mr. Wickes

Two local radio men made a useful contribution to the discussion at the dinner for Scottish Editors:

- Alex Dickson, Programme Controller, Radio Clyde (to whom the Prime Minister is probably referring); and
- Tom Craig, Managing Director, Oray FORTH Radio.

Jung 27/7



From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

*DN*  
*NEA* *noted in diary*  
*I have told*  
*H.O. 21 Sept*  
27 July 1987

*N L W*  
*28.7*

*Dear Nigel,*

SEMINAR ON BROADCASTING TECHNOLOGY  
AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

Thank you for your letter of 24 July. I am afraid that 28 September really is out from the Home Secretary's point of view. We could, however, clear space in the diary on the morning of 21 September and I hope that we can go snap on that.

I shall write to you shortly about the other points in your letter. Meanwhile a copy of this goes to Tim Walker at DTI.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*P J C Mawer*

P J C MAWER

N L Wicks, Esq.,

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