



10 DOWNING STREET

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*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Thank you for your minute of 15 September about the request from Sir William Rees-Mogg to attend the Prime Minister's forthcoming seminar on broadcasting.

Your minute puts me in some difficulty. We have already refused requests from some half a dozen other people to attend the seminar: the numbers attending are already too large - some 36 - and the expertise of those who asked to be added was not relevant to the theme of the seminar, the prospective development of broadcasting technology. Sir William's eminence does not, I think, lie in that area. The BBC is already well represented at the seminar and the Arts Council contribution would have more cultural than technological relevance.

I wonder therefore whether you could tell Sir William that as you thought initially the composition of the seminar is now largely settled and there would be problems in adding new participants at this stage.

N.L.W.

N. L. WICKS

16 September 1987

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