

Prime Minister

Agree to write as
proposed?

Yes

PRIME MINISTER

AKW

30 October 1987

30/10.

STRUCTURE OF BROADCASTING

Earlier this week I received the following letter from Sir
Ian Trethowan.

The idea which he proposes - replacing the existing
broadcasting authorities by one body - has been put to me by
a number of people over the last few months, some of whom
are very knowledgeable about broadcasting. Many of them are
very taken by the way in which the FCC works in the USA.
When we have a competitive television industry a move to
such a system might make great sense. To introduce it
earlier, however, would mean an upheaval of the BBC as well
as the IBA, as it would strip the BBC of its role as a
broadcasting authority.

Recommendation

It hardly seems worthwhile at this stage asking the Home
Office for their view on Sir Ian's idea as they are almost
certain to be strongly opposed to it.

On the other hand, it might be worth asking the Home
Secretary whether the way in which the IBA operates might be
improved.

Brian Griffiths

BRIAN GRIFFITHS