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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*Meeting Record*

*From the Private Secretary*

9 February 1988

*Dear Tony,*

WORLD TELEVISION

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had a further word this morning about the proposal to allow the BBC External Services to use some of their funds to start a television news service for external broadcasting. The Prime Minister reiterated her strong objections to this on the grounds of equity between the BBC and ITN. She also drew attention to problems which the BBC External Services had caused for British interests in recent months in relation to the Soviet Union, Kenya and India. If any surplus funds were available, she would prefer to see them used to support the British Council. The Foreign Secretary took issue with a number of these points but concluded that in the light of the Prime Minister's firm views he would not pursue the proposal. He would have to let the BBC know of this decision very shortly. The matter might be taken up in the House by a number of Members including the Government's own supporters.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Charles Powell*

(C.D. POWELL)

A.C. Galsworthy, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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