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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 March 1988

Dear Jeremy,

THE ITV SYSTEM: ITN

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's minute of 23 February following up the discussion at MISC 128. She recognises the arguments against relying on a monopoly reference relating to the BBC, and that the most direct method of preventing the emergence of a monopoly might be a provision in ITV contracts.

The Prime Minister thinks however that the wording of such a provision should be somewhat different from that proposed by your Secretary of State. As it stands she thinks the wording could cause trouble and be misconstrued. She suggests that the provision should be on the lines that ITV companies should continue to use either ITN or another independent news service.

I am copying this letter to Private Secretaries to members of MISC 128 and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours,
Paul.

(PAUL GRAY)

Jeremy Godfrey, Esq.,
Department of Trade and Industry.

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