

RA

PRIME MINISTER

Spoke DTI.

Rec'd 4/27/88

MEETINGS OF MISC 128 ON BROADCASTING

You agreed at your bilateral with Lord Young today that he should do a further paper for the next Misc 128 meeting on his latest ideas for additional channels. You also proposed that Mr. Clarke should attend that meeting.

The meeting is currently arranged for Thursday, 5 May. I now understand that Mr. Clarke will be in Brussels that day for an important Airbus meeting which, understandably, he feels he should not miss. DTI have therefore requested that we put the meeting back till the following week - which they also say would give them more time to prepare the paper.

I would not trouble you with this, but should be grateful to know how strongly you feel about Mr. Clarke attending. In both diary and work planning terms I am most reluctant to put the meeting back, and in any event I gather DTI could get their paper ready in good time for 5 May.

Although I can see the advantage in having Mr. Clarke present, I am not sure this would be essential - and in any event having two DTI Ministers present could add to the tensions already evident between the DTI and the Home Office.

Content to let the 5 May meeting go ahead?

Rec'd.

PG

Yes

27 April, 1988.