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PRIME MINISTER

MISC 128: MEETING ON 28 JULY

The papers are:

Flag A: Home Secretary's paper - Misc 128(88)9

Flag B: Paper by Chairman of Official Group on
Telecommunications Policy (Richard Wilson) -
Misc 128(88)10

Flag C: Cabinet Office Brief

✓ Flag D: Comments by Brian Griffiths

Flag E: Comments by John Fairclough

Flag F: Paper by Christopher Bland (Chairman of LWT)

You may want to start by quickly disposing of the paper at Flag B. All you need to look at is the Chairman's covering note at the start of the paper. You could start the meeting by seeking confirmation that everybody is content with it.

The Cabinet Office brief at Flag C provides an order for tackling the issues in the Home Secretary's paper (Flag A). Brian Griffiths' minute (Flag D) suggests that the broad framework set out by Douglas Hurd is right, but he raises a number of detailed comments. There is a difference of emphasis between the Cabinet Office brief and the Home Secretary's papers, which play up concerns about the future of BSB, and Brian Griffiths' note, which suggests limiting the advantages provided to BSB.

The key requirement for the meeting is to agree a basis on which work can now proceed on the preparation of the White

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Paper planned for the autumn.

John Fairclough's note (Flag E) suggests further work by Misc 131. I have discussed this with Richard Wilson (the Chairman of Misc 131), and he does not support John Fairclough's suggestions.

I have included the LWT paper (Flag F) which you saw last night. This makes the case against ITV tendering, whereas Douglas Hurd's paper endorses Misc 128's earlier conclusion in favour of tendering. Subject to the outcome of tomorrow's meeting, you might want to reconsider your initial reaction in favour of a meeting with Christopher Bland.

flcb.

PG

27 July, 1988.

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