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PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL WITH BRIAN GRIFFITHS

16 SEPTEMBER

Brian would like to discuss with you various aspects of the position we have reached on broadcasting.

We have a meeting of MISC 128 arranged for the week after next. That will be to take stock of the further work mentioned before the summer. Douglas Hurd has just circulated a complete draft of the proposed White Paper. I am not troubling you with that tonight; I will put it in the weekend box.

But meantime, Brian would like to talk through with you tomorrow four specific issues which arise. The papers are organised in the four folders below.

Folder 1 - Subscription and the night hours

You considered a couple of weeks ago Brian's earlier note, prepared after the Home Secretary sent in his proposal. We have now also had comments from the DTI and the Treasury. Brian's latest minute seeks to pull all these together and sets out the points he thinks should now be put to the Home Secretary.

Are you content for me to minute out your views on this basis?

Folder 2 - ITN

You saw Bernard's note about Alastair Burnet's worries before your meeting with Duke Hussey and Joel Barnet. We have sent the ITN paper privately to the Home Office.

Brian has now provided you with a full note setting out his analysis of the problem.

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Folder 3 - Transmission

The Home Secretary has circulated proposals on this, which you have not seen before.

Brian's note sets out his objections to the proposals. You will want to consider whether to register before the MISC 128 meeting any comments.

Folder 4 - Position of the BBC

Brian's note sets out his concern that the present package of proposals will lead to a stronger and more dominant BBC.

S. Mavis

PP

PAUL GRAY

15 September 1988