



cc/PU

FCS/88/178HOME SECRETARYCommunity Radio

file with PS

1. Thank you for copying to me your letter of 11 October to David Young about your proposed response to the IBA scheme for community radio stations.
2. I am generally content that you should approve the IBA scheme with the modifications set out in Annex B to your letter. But, as you know from previous exchanges on this subject, my main worry is that some of these new stations may be misused by broadcasters wishing to expound views which affect the interests of foreign governments and so damage our foreign policy and national interests abroad.
3. Close and effective IBA supervision of the programme content of these new stations will therefore be extremely important, particularly of any broadcasting in foreign languages. It will also be important for the IBA promptly to investigate and where necessary to take action over well-founded complaints from overseas governments. I retain a number of concerns in this area, which I hope will be reflected in your discussions of detailed arrangements with the IBA. Officials will be setting them out more fully.
4. I am copying this letter to the members of MISC 128, David Young and Sir Robin Butler.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
27 October 1988