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the department for Enterprise
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The Rt. Hon. Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

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*Nelson
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Dear Catherine,

WILL REQUEST IF REQUIRED

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 1 November to Lyn Parker about the draft Council of Europe Convention and draft EC Directive on Broadcasting.

My Secretary of State welcomes the progress that Mr Renton has made on the draft Convention and, in particular, the indication that the Germans are prepared to make significant concessions to resolve the advertising issue. When the details of the re-drafted text are available, and in the light of the views of the advertisers and broadcasters, my Secretary of State hopes it can form the basis of an agreement.

The Secretary of State also supports the pragmatic approach that has been adopted to both draft instruments, and their inter-relationship, and sees that as the best way of arriving ultimately at sensible and workable proposals.

He agrees that it is important to make the most of the opportunity offered by the Stockholm Conference. We should not however allow the political pressure to reach an agreement to override our main aim, which must continue to be a convention which fully satisfies our interests. We should therefore be prepared to hold out against agreement at Stockholm if the text at that stage still fails in any way to meet our objectives.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Gareth Jones

GARETH JONES
Private Secretary

