

RA

PRIME MINISTER

BROADCASTING

As Brian and I warned you this morning, there is, I fear, a large volume of paper for you to look at on Broadcasting. Most of this is for next Thursday's meeting of MISC 128. But there are also some other aspects that can be dealt with outside that Committee.

This minute is designed to guide you through the papers that follow.

Issues To Settle Outside MISC 128

(a) When you saw Douglas Hurd earlier in the week, he raised with you the possibility of an informal meeting with outsiders on quality in Broadcasting. At Flag A is a note from the Home Office suggesting names, together with a comment from Brian Griffiths which recommends against such a meeting. Andrew and I both share Brian's doubts. You will want to consider whether:

- to keep open the possibility of such a meeting until after the MISC 128 discussion;

Yes not

OR

- to decide now to drop the idea.

(b) Another point outstanding from your meeting with the Home Secretary is whether the Lord President should join MISC 128. Robin Butler's minute at Flag B recommends against. You will want to consider whether to accept that recommendation.

The L.P. should join much later when the main decision are known - the Parliamentary Commission are known - the

(c) In the folder at Flag C is a set of papers on local services and the possibility of a Channel 6. These

points have been discussed in detail at official level, and the hope is that they can be agreed without the need for MISC 128 discussion. You will see from Brian's note in that folder that he endorses the proposals.

In view of this, you may feel it unnecessary to spend time working through the Flag C papers, other than Brian's note, and be content to agree this package without reference to MISC 128.

Content:

- (a) To drop the idea of a separate meeting on quality in Broadcasting? Yes
- (b) To leave the Lord President off MISC 128? Yes
- (c) To agree the local services and Channel 6 points without reference to MISC 128? Yes

MISC 128 Papers

There are three items for discussion on Thursday. The papers are enclosed in the three further folders below:

- I ← Overview discussion on implementation of the Broadcasting White Paper. The papers are a minute from Douglas Hurd (which you saw before your recent talk with John Wheeler), a Cabinet Office brief and a note by Brian Griffiths.
- II ← Ownership. There is a Home Office paper and briefs by Cabinet Office and Brian Griffiths.
- III Channel 4. There is a Home Office paper and briefs by Cabinet Office and Brian Griffiths.

You will see that on all three items Brian has substantial worries about the Home Secretary's proposals.

Finally, at the very back of the folder is a copy of the White Paper, in case you wish to refer back to it.

*Patricia A. Parkin.*

*JP* PAUL GRAY

14 April 1989

*Duty Clerk.*

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