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To those attending

HOME OFFICE/DTI BROADCASTING SEMINAR: 11 JULY 1988

The Home Secretary sees this as a small and informal seminar. There will be no formal seminar papers, but attached are

- a list of those attending (Annex A)
- an annotated agenda (Annex B)

2. The seminar will be held at the "Romans" Hotel, Little London Road, Silchester, Nr Reading, RG7 2PN (Tel 0734-700421). It will begin at 11.00 am and end at 3.00 pm. There will be coffee on arrival and a buffet lunch.

3. The "Romans" is equidistant from the M3 and the M4 (map at Annex C) and six miles from Basingstoke station. There are trains from Waterloo to Basingstoke at 9.10 (arrives 9.56) and 9.45 (arrives 10.30). At least 15 minutes should be allowed for the taxi journey.

4. The contact point for any queries about the arrangements (eg conference facilities, dietary requirements, travel difficulties) is David Cooke in the Home Office Broadcasting Department (01-273-2264). It would be helpful if he could be notified of any changes in the attendance list.

Secretariat  
Home Office  
6 July 1988

<wk>D/Nt/HO/DTI/Bg/Sem/11788

HOME OFFICE/DTI SEMINAR ON BROADCASTING: 11 JULY 1988

Attendance List

Home Office (10)

Home Secretary and Private Secretary

Mr Renton

Mr Heathcoat-Amory

Mr Lidington

Sir Clive Whitmore

Mr Hyde

Mr Thomas

Mr Sibson

Mr Cooke (Secretary)

DTI (8)

Lord Young

Sir Jeffrey Sterling

Mr Lough

Mr MacDonald

Mr Nieduszynski

3 other DTI officials

Others (4)

Financial Secretary

Mrs Case, HMT

Professor Griffiths, No 10

Mr Langdon, Cabinet Office

TOTAL: 22



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Annotated agenda

The meeting might concentrate on the four main issues below, but not work through the detailed issues in turn.

1. Additional programme services

Relevant issues are:

(a) The technological/capacity options (cable, DBS, other Direct-to-Home satellite services, MVDS, UHF C5/C6?, Night Hours); and whether the Government should favour any particular technologies.

(b) Reactions to possibility of delivering BBC 2 and Channel 4 by satellite.

(c) The role of Government; establishing ground rules? Picking winners; providing a route map?

(d) Regulatory regime - which channels/services should be subject to public service obligations, positive programming obligations or a light touch?

(e) The programme production sector: Is the Government confident that the system can finance it. Can it generate material of the right amount and quality? Or is this a matter which should be left to the market in any case?

(f) Transmission arrangements and vertical integration.

2. Financing television

Relevant issues are:

Scope for a fully competitive consumer market; Peacock analysis. Scope for downward pressure on advertising rates; balance between advertising and subscription; should Government or the market decide whether advertising or subscription be used to finance individual new services? Implications of Council of Europe Convention and EC Directive.

3. Reform of commercial television

Relevant issues are:

(a) Future of ITV (C3). A highly regulated nationally networked component of public service broadcasting, made up of IBA contractors; or licensees with a free hand? Competitive tendering for ITV franchises; increase or decrease in the number of ITV franchises

(b) Continuation of positive programming obligations; consumer protection; regional programmes; news.

(c) Regulation; original programme productions; and role of independent producers.

(d) Relationship to additional services, particularly C5 (distinct regimes or a level playing field).

(e) C4's constitution; financing; remit; relationship to C3.

(f) Implications for possible merger of IBA and Cable Authority.

4. Nature of the Reform Package and how it can be presented

What are the selling points?



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Consumer choice;

enhancing quality, range and diversity;

building strength and diversity of domestic television production;

greater efficiency and competition at all levels;

subscription as a new source of finance and the route to a competitive market.

<mc>Sub/Mawer/HO/DTI/Bg/Sem/11/7/Enc

## HOW TO FIND US *ANNEX C*

### FROM M3

Leave M3 at Junction 6.

Proceed around Basingstoke Bypass in a Northerly and then Westerly direction following signs for A340, Aldermaston, Tadley and District Hospital.

Leave Bypass and proceed up A340 for approximately 3½ miles until Queens College Arms, which is on the left.

Turn right here.

In ⅔ mile turn left.

Proceed through Little London and after three miles you will see ROMANS on your left.

### FROM M4 – JUNCTION 11

At Junction 11 turn on to the A33 (signposted Basingstoke).

After 0.5 miles, turn right at roundabout (signposted Grazeley and Mortimer).

At Junction after 3.7 miles bear right to Mortimer (passing Fox and Horn Pub) for 1.1 miles to Mortimer Church.

Turn left at Church (signposted Silchester) and proceed for 1.2 miles (passing the Turners Arms).

Turn left at T junction (signposted Silchester) into Silchester (1.3 miles).

In Silchester, turn left (signposted Little London).

Pass the Calleva Arms and ROMANS is 100 yards further on the right.

