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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

26 July 1989

BROADCASTING STANDARDS COUNCIL

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Home Secretary's minute of 21 July and the attached draft announcement.

The Prime Minister has two concerns about the proposals. First, she does not consider the BSC code would be given sufficient weight simply by requiring the BBC and ITC to have regard to the BSC's code. On this basis, she feels there would be little if any benefit from having the BSC: it would be powerless and the grievance it would be set up to redress would continue. She therefore considers the BBC and ITC should be required by law to accept the BSC code.

Second, the Prime Minister does not see why the BSC should be restricted from publishing its findings in printed form as well as broadcast form. She considers the BSC should be allowed to explain the reasons for a particular decision in printed form if it wishes to do so, for example to ensure that there is an accurate written report of its findings.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of MISC 128 and to Sir Robin Butler.

(PAUL GRAY)

Miss Catherine Bannister,
Home Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 July 1989

NEWS FOR CHANNELS 3, 4, AND 5

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Home Secretary's minute of 21 July and is content with the arrangements he proposes for news services on Channels 3, 4 and 5 in the Broadcasting Bill.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of MISC 128, and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

(PAUL GRAY)

Miss Catherine Bannister,
Home Office.



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 July 1989

NEWS FOR CHANNELS 3, 4 AND 5

Thank you for your letter of 21 July covering the minute from the Home Secretary to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister was most grateful for this further information. I am writing separately to you, copying to the Private Secretaries to members of MISC 128, recording the Prime Minister's agreement to the Home Secretary's proposals.

(PAUL GRAY)

Miss Catherine Bannister,
Home Office.