

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Prime Minister  
A note on 'Real Lives'



HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

MEM 6/5

SEPT.  
6 August 1985

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Dear Mark,

PROPOSED BBC PROGRAMME "REAL LIVES"

You will have seen from today's press that the BBC Board of Governors met yesterday and decided that the climate was now right for a showing of a revised version of the "Real Lives" programme. It is intended that the programme should be broadcast in the second half of October. I attach a copy of a statement that was issued yesterday by the BBC, signed by both the Chairman and the Director General.

In response to any media requests for a Government reaction, the Home Secretary intends to say that his predecessor had expressed his view about the showing of the programme and that he (the Home Secretary) agreed with him. It remains his and the Government's view that the media ought not to give gratuitous publicity to terrorists. The Home Secretary has noted the present decision, which it was always accepted would be entirely a matter for the Board of Governors.

The Home Secretary agreed the lines of this response in discussion with the previous Home Secretary yesterday. He does not intend to make any further comment on the issue for the present.

Yours sincerely  
H H Taylor

H H TAYLOR

Mark Addison, Esq.

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BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION  
TELEVISION CENTRE WOOD LANE LONDON W12 7RJ  
TELEPHONE: D.D.I. No: 01-576      TELEX: 265781  
TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: TELECASTS LONDON TELEX

5th September 1985

The Board of Governors met today and considered the "Real Lives" programme. The Board of Governors and Board of Management confirmed that the full system of reference up to the Director-General did not operate during its making. Both Boards considered this a serious failing and the Director-General has reinforced to all staff the vital importance of these procedures being strictly observed at all times. The Director-General informed the Board of Governors that the amendments originally required to the programme by the Board of Management had been dealt with and the programme had been revised in accordance with his instructions and that the programme was now ready for transmission. The Board of Governors now believe that the general climate is such that an early showing of the programme is acceptable. They have, therefore, agreed with the Director-General that it should be transmitted during the second half of October. The new date will be announced by the Director-General at a later time.

(Stuart Young)  
Chairman

(Alasdair Milne)  
Director-General

