

File

PRIME MINISTER

VISION BROADCASTING COMMUNICATIONS

You will remember seeing before Christmas some correspondence from Vision Broadcasting Communications, a broadcasting company which produces Christian programmes for television. They were concerned that, under the new broadcasting regime, it would not be possible for them to be treated as a recognised channel by the ITC.

You asked for two further possibilities to be considered by the Home Office (see your comments on my earlier minute at Flag A).

The Home Office have now responded (Flag B) and propose to adopt your second suggestion, namely that the ITC should be given an exceptional power not to disallow ownership of a channel by a body with a wide religious purpose not limited between particular sect.

This seems fully to meet your earlier concerns and I now propose to write in the terms at Flag C to Vision Broadcasting Communications.

Content for me to handle in these terms and to ask the Home Office to follow this line in other similar correspondence?

PAUL GRAY

19 January 1990

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