

PRIME MINISTER

CROSS OWNERSHIP RESTRICTIONS IN THE MEDIA

You saw some of the enclosed papers earlier in the week, and decided to have a small meeting with the Home Secretary, Mr. Ridley, a Treasury Minister and the Chief Whip. We have now set this up for Tuesday morning following the Budget Cabinet.

There are two specific issues to cover:

- (i) The restrictions on satellite television services not using UK frequencies, on which the latest position is set out in the Home Secretary's letter at Flag A. A new brief from the Cabinet Office (Flag B) covers the key points.
- (ii) the point raised with you by the Newspaper Society about the restrictions on newspapers owning radio and television stations in conurbations (Flag C). I have alerted those attending to the fact that you may wish to raise this.

You may, however, also want to use the meeting to take stock of where things are on the Broadcasting Bill, and to check that there are no other outstanding issues which require collective discussion.

*face*

PG

16 March 1990

jd c:cross