



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 February, 1985

Dear Charles,

Review of BBC External Services

*NBQM
CDP
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Thank you for your letter of 4 February.

It was very helpful to have this indication of the Prime Minister's views in advance of the Adjournment Debate on the External Services which took place that evening.

We made a considerable effort, with the BBC, so that the Report on the External Services could be published in time for the Adjournment Debate since this was an obvious opportunity to draw the House's attention to the report. But Mr Renton made it clear that the Government was still considering the recommendations and the follow-up to the Report; and that this speech did not constitute the Government's response to it. He also referred to some of the more important recommendations in the Report and drew on the language in the exchange of letters between the Foreign Secretary and the Chairman of the BBC which was published with the Report. We shall be putting recommendations to the Prime Minister as soon as possible on which of the Report's conclusions the Government should accept.

I am copying this letter to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury), Hugh Taylor (Home Office), Paul Thomas (Office of Arts and Libraries), and Andrew Stott (Efficiency Unit, Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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Office of the Commonwealth Director

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Dear Sir

Yours
faithfully
[Signature]