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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

AI

2 December 1986

Sir Alastair Burnet has written to the Prime Minister to offer to brief her about ITN's plans for Direct Broadcasting by Satellite.

I believe that the Prime Minister will be keen to take up Sir Alastair's offer of a briefing. But before she comes to any final decision, I should be glad to know whether there is any reason for you to advise her not to meet Mr. David Nicholas and Sir Alastair Burnet of ITN.

Please could I have your reply by Tuesday 9 December.

N.L. WICKS

Stephen Boys Smith Esq
Home Office

Independent Television News Limited

ITN House, 48 Wells Street, London W1P 4DE

Phone: 01-637 2424

Telex: 22101 Newsroom: News at One, News at 5.45, News at Ten

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261779 Film and Videotape Library

Cables: Telindep, London PS4

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

27 November 1986

Dear Prime Minister,

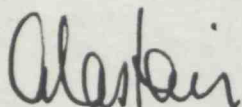
You will know that ITN proposes to start a news service, using the Direct Broadcast by Satellite system, over this country and much of North-West Europe when DBS starts in a couple of years' time.

This is, of course, at the disposal of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, but we are hopeful !

As DBS promises to be a big step forward in broadcasting, with very exciting consequences for the dissemination of news--and the advertising of British goods and services--I'm writing to say that, if you have the time, my editor, David Nicholas, and I would be delighted to tell you just what the plans are and what we think the future holds.

All good wishes,

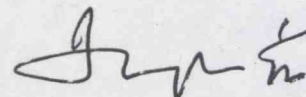
Yours ever,



Alastair Burnet

Mr WICKS

You will wish to
know whether such
a meeting would be
held at this stage





10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Sir Alastair,

Thank you for your letter of 27 November about ITN's proposed news service using the Direct Broadcast by Satellite system.

There are certainly enormous opportunities here and I was interested to read of your plans. Rather than my seeing David Nicholas and yourself, I wonder whether you might have a word with Bernard Ingham sometime. He could then provide me with a report of what you say.

No - I shall have to see them.

Sir Alastair Burnet