



CUB/g

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My ref:

Your ref:

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP  
Home Office  
Queen Anne's Gate  
LONDON  
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20 January 1987

*Dear Douglas*

*N BPN.*

RADIO GREEN PAPER

Thank you for your letter of 14 January 1987.

I agree that there is no disagreement of substance between us, and I am glad that you are prepared to agree that the Green Paper should not use the problematical formula of "no undue prominence". I am happy with your proposed formulation for the Green Paper.

I am sending copies of this letter to the members of MISC 128 to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Nicholas Ridley*

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

BROADCASTING legislation PT2





QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

14 January 1987

NRBR.

Dear Nicholas,

RADIO GREEN PAPER

Thank you for your letter of 30 December.

WILL REQUEST IF REQUIRED

I do not think that there is any disagreement of substance between us: the Green Paper should make it clear that stations licensed by the Cable Authority should not broadcast in such a way that any particular set of views on matters which are of political or industrial controversy is allowed to predominate. Although my letter of 17 December explained that the "undue prominence" test drawn from the cable legislation should have this effect, I do not think there is a need at this stage to tie ourselves to any precise statutory formula provided that the concept it is intended to express is made clear. I would therefore propose that the Green Paper should state in terms that the licence conditions for radio stations should prohibit them from allowing particular sets of views to predominate. The important thing for us all to recognise is that, whatever formula the draftsman in due course proposes, the Authority will inevitably be called upon to exercise difficult judgments.

I am copying this letter to the other members of MISC 128, to the Foreign Secretary and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Loverry

Douglas.

