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Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP *From The Secretary of State for Wales*

17 February 1987

John Douglas

NRM

RADIO GREEN PAPER

I have seen the text of the Green Paper which you aim to issue later this month.

I am content with its contents, with the exception of paragraphs 5.4-5.6.

As is said in paragraph 5.4 there is no obvious reason to disturb the present arrangements. This is very true. I have received no representations from anyone about any need to change the present provision for Welsh language radio. Indeed, on the contrary, I am reliably informed that the audience of Radio Cymru is well satisfied with the BBC's provision in this respect.

S4C is of course specifically charged to provide television programmes. Its remit under the 1981 Broadcasting Act does not extend to radio, and I do not believe we should even consider such an extension.

Since S4C came on air the debate about Welsh language broadcasting has receded into the background. That is where I would wish it to remain at this point in time at least. I would therefore ask you to consider removing these paragraphs. Their inclusion will I believe be politically counter productive for us, and now is not the time to run unnecessary hares.

I am copying this letter to MISC 128 and other colleagues as indicated in your private secretary's letter.

John Douglas
NRM

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