



DRN or.

K01761

MR NORGROVE

MISC 128

cc Mr Langdon

B.G.

Note at end

We spoke about the business that might be put to the next two meetings. At present there is a meeting fixed for 28 October, and we are trying to find a slot in mid-November for a meeting to replace one that was lost from 11 November.

If MISC 128 decides that there should be a heavy Bill next Session, including the main ITV decisions, then there will need to be a White Paper by next Easter. If the main legislation is held over to the following Session, then the White Paper could probably be postponed to next Autumn.

The main current business is

- (i) The timetable
- (ii) ITV franchises, levy etc; ITN; Channel 4 (following the last meeting)
- (iii) Decisions on radio, following Green Paper
- (iv) Subscription - first substantive discussion.

There are a lot of second-order issues to which the Group will need to return (eg networking; night hours). But the most important is

- (v) Independent producers - progress of negotiations (Home Secretary) and fair terms of trading (Trade and Industry Secretary).

The studies of MMDS and a fifth UHF channel will not be ready until, say, the turn of the year, and do not affect current business.

Radio and subscription will not be ready to come to a meeting before mid-November, but the Home Secretary will shortly be minuting on independent producers, and I think the Group will want to discuss that. I suggest, therefore, that the meeting on 28 October should take items (i), (ii) and (v) above, and that we should plan for (iii) and (iv) to go to the mid-November meeting that is being arranged. If the first meeting decides on a slow timetable, with a White Paper held over to the Autumn, then there is probably no great urgency about the second meeting, which could be postponed if necessary. But if the first meeting decides on a White Paper by Easter, then we shall certainly need the next meeting in mid-November.

Perhaps you could let me know if all this looks reasonable from your point of view.

ALL

A J LANGDON

14 October 1987

Thank you. This looks reasonable to me. Papers on ITV could be circulated to the first meeting, but fall back to a later one if the Group decides to go for a lighter bill next session. Then we would not have to rush the discussion of independent producers.

ALW  
15/10.

