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15pm



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

21 December 1987

Dear David,

BROADCASTING SPECTRUM STUDIES

Star

Thank you for your letter of 16 December. I entirely support the earliest possible registration of our interest in the UHF frequencies in accordance with international procedures for the reasons you have given.

We are, as you suggested, writing to BSB and to the Cable Authority; and indeed to the BBC and the IBA.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours,
Douglas

The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham

BROADCASTING: Radio Frequency Apr 82





CCBG

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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

16 December 1987

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE MP
Secretary of State for Home Affairs
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AT

NBM

Dear Secretary of State

BROADCASTING SPECTRUM STUDIES

I mentioned to you in my letter of 30 November that we can expect the results of our study into the possibility of a fifth UHF television service to be available before the end of the year. The most attractive option emerging at the moment would be to use two channels between TV bands IV and V at the main transmitting stations. This could provide a fifth service to some 65-70% of the population and this percentage could perhaps be increased a little by further re-use of the frequencies at smaller transmitting stations.

Although further work is necessary before we can reach any firm conclusions, I think we should now register our interest in these frequencies in accordance with the international procedures. If we do not do this, we run the risk that our continental neighbours may seek to use these channels themselves. Registering our interest would not avoid subsequent international negotiations but it would give us the upper hand in them and we would have everything to gain in registering detailed proposals now.

Although registering proposals does not bind us to implement them, there might be domestic repercussions, if our actions were misinterpreted as a decision to have a fifth TV service at UHF without waiting for the results of our study. However, registration is a routine procedure which does not normally attract publicity and I

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would not propose to make public announcement. The line I would take in response to any questions is that registering a detailed frequency plan for a fifth TV service will enable us to define the international constraints with greater precision and will keep our options open until we are ready to take decisions.

BSB and certain of the cable companies may have particular sensitivities and I thought you might like to consider writing in advance to BSB and to the Cable Authority spelling out what we are doing and why.

Unless you see any objection to what I propose, I will arrange for the registration procedure to be initiated within the next few days.

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

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Godfrey

pp LORD YOUNG OF GRAFFHAM

Approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence

Broadcasting: Radio Frequency Spectrum

April 1982