



FCS/89/089

HOME SECRETARY


NBM

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16/5

Privatisation of the Broadcasting Transmission System

1. Thank you for your letter of ^{flap PT7} 25 April about the Price Waterhouse study on options for privatising the television and radio transmission system.
2. I agree that early publication of the report could be useful in promoting an informed debate about its conclusions and I look forward to our discussion on this subject in June.
3. The principal point of interest in the report to my Department is the potential impact of the proposals on the operation and cost to public funds of the BBC World Service transmission network in Britain and overseas. We shall need to consider carefully the report's recommendation that management, operation and maintenance of the World Service transmission should be contracted out. The report recognises that the World Service operation is separate from the domestic transmission system and recommends that the World Service assets should remain in the public sector.
3. I understand our officials are in touch about some minor points of presentation detail in the report.
4. I am sending copies of this minute to the recipients of yours.


 (GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

16 May 1989

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