

PRIME MINISTER

Gaelic Television Services

Ten days ago you gave strong support to objections raised by the Chancellor to Malcolm Rifkind's idea of an expansion of Gaelic Television Services funded from ITV franchise receipts.

Malcolm Rifkind has now returned to the charge in his further minute at Flag A. He argues that the Broadcasting White Paper did envisage some additional Gaelic broadcasting, and that if the Welsh have had TV Services funded from national franchise receipts, then so can Gaelic speakers. But he does not press for an immediate decision at this stage, and suggests that his officials should liaise with the Home Office and Treasury to work up firm proposals.

The Home Secretary (Flag B) agrees that the issue should be examined, and undertakes to report back to you when the work has been concluded.

Brian Griffiths (Flag C) challenges Malcolm Rifkind's proposals:-

- He points out that the White Paper did not promise any more Gaelic broadcasting at national or regional level.
- He argues that there are key differences between Welsh and Gaelic.
- He points to the dangers of pressures from other minority languages if Gaelic receives special funding.

But he agrees that officials should do further work.

Content:

- (i) to note that officials will now do further work?
- (ii) but to clarify what the White Paper actually said on Gaelic and stress the differences between Welsh and Gaelic, urging these points to be taken fully into account in the further work.
- (iii) ask officials also to consider in detail the likely knock-on effects in terms of minority languages.

RECCG.

PG

21 July, 1989.

Yes mb