



Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER

Context for the Home Sec to
approach Sir David Steel and
Professor James Ring?

Yes
MT

for. WSFR.
23/3/82

INQUIRY INTO BROADCASTING POLICY ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT OF CABLE SYSTEMS

In my Private Secretary's letter of 18 March to your Private Secretary about the announcement of the Inquiry, he said that I would be making proposals very shortly about the two members who are to serve with Lord Hunt.

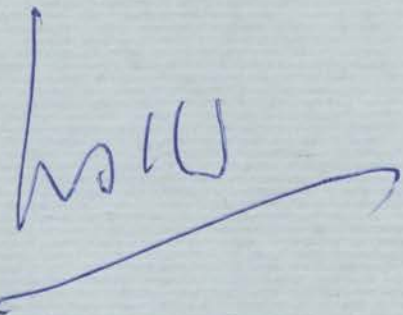
My approach to these two appointments is that ideally they should bring to the Inquiry experience of three kinds: industrial, technological, and some knowledge of the broadcasting background. I need at the same time people who are not too closely or currently identified with any particular interest, and who can find the substantial amount of time that will be required of them.

Weighing these considerations, I propose to approach, first, Sir David Steel, who recently retired as Chairman of British Petroleum. His name was one of those suggested by D.O.I. as suitable for this Inquiry, to which I am sure he would make a distinguished contribution.

Secondly, I propose to approach Professor James Ring, who has a Chair in Physics at Imperial College. He was on the I.B.A. (as the "technical" member) from 1974 until last year; he was well thought of in that capacity, and took some interest in the potential of cable television: he would thus combine the technological and broadcasting backgrounds. His name has been mentioned to D.O.I. Ministers, who I understand would be happy to see him, as well as Sir David Steel, on the Inquiry. Lord Hunt would also be content.

I am, as you know, anxious to press ahead rapidly with setting up the Inquiry, and would be glad to know as soon as possible that you are content for me to approach these two.

I am sending a copy of this minute to our 'E' Committee colleagues, the Minister of State for Information Technology and to Sir Robert Armstrong (who has helped in considering names for the Inquiry and knows of my present proposal).



23rd March, 1982