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24 February 1981

Dear Mike *Messrs* *Prime Minister*
Content with these answers
to the two points you raised?

Thank you for your letter of 23 February about the proposed new BBC Charter and Licence and Agreement.

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We understand from the BBC that the main agreements which the Corporation have made with the Unions under Article 13(i) of the present Charter (which incidentally remains unamended in the proposed new Charter), do not provide for unilateral access to arbitration. There is, however, one representational agreement which provides for unilateral access to arbitration on the part of the National Association of Theatrical Television and Kine Employees (NATTKE), or the BBC. This arose some years ago because of a dispute on representation between the main BBC Union, the Association of Broadcasting Staff (ABS) and NATTKE. We understand that this representational agreement could not lead to NATTKE seeking unilateral access to arbitration on pay and conditions of service matters. But it is worth making the point that Article 13(i) itself merely puts an obligation on the BBC to have agreements of this sort; it does not stipulate the form in which they should be made.

Clause 12 of the Licence and Agreement, which in the new document is amended only to substitute "prior approval of the Secretary of State" for "previous consent in writing of the Postmaster General", does not forbid advertising on BBC services; advertising could be permitted with the Secretary of State's prior approval.

Yours ever
A. P. Jackson

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