

for seeing what the

that discussion if we
to — to produce
value for money

powered satellite services which viewers
may already receive direct.

- ITV will become Channel 3.
- The IBA and Cable Authority will be replaced by a new Independent Tele-

● All UHF "terrestrial" channels, BBC
and independent, would be required to
take at least 25 per cent of original
programming from independent
producers.

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legislation.

s Committee supported
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grammes in the field of
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view that any relaxation
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tee's argument. After
the BBC on this subject,
been reached on less
gements for the broad-
sponsored events, such
s events.

BC's role

ry to review the role of
the present Charter
d of 1996. It would be
the Government to

express a view in this White Paper on the
Peacock Committee's suggestion that in
the longer term a Public Service
Broadcasting Council should be respon-
sible for commissioning public service
programmes which even a fully de-
veloped consumer market in broadcasting
would not otherwise deliver. Experience
needs to be gained first of the progress
and impact of the reforms set out here
and elsewhere in the White Paper.

Radio

The Government's view, following on from
the Green Paper on radio published in
February last year, is that there will be
scope for at least three new national
commercial services. A new VHF frequency
will be available for one of these services.
The BBC's existing Radio 1 and Radio 3
MF frequencies will be reassigned for the
other two. The BBC will retain sufficient
frequencies to broadcast its national
services. The White Paper says: "Minimum
standards will be retained. Public service
radio broadcasting will continue under the
aegis of the BBC. BBC Radio services will
continue to be funded from the licence fee
for some years to come. But BBC radio
services will be subject to a much stronger
stimulus of competition. The Government's
proposals will create the conditions for an
expansion of radio which should benefit
broadcasters, advertisers and listeners
alike."

Transmission

The White Paper expresses a Government
wish to separate service delivery from
service provision.

- The Government considers that the best
arrangement in due course would be a

regionally based, privatised transmission
system designed to promote competition,
while containing certain common carrier
obligations. The route towards this ob-
jective is complicated at present by the
way in which the IBA's system is
entwined with that of the BBC, and the
fact that the BBC's transmission respon-
sibilities are rooted in its Charter which
lasts until the end of 1996. The
Government proposes to discuss with
the BBC, the IBA and others how the
objective of moving towards a privatised
transmission system might best be taken
forward. It will also be considering how,
given its inherent monopolistic character-
istics arising in part from topography,
any necessary regulatory oversight
should be arranged.

- Until such a system is in place the BBC
will continue to have responsibility for
transmitting its television and radio
services. The Government hopes that the
BBC will, during this transitional period,
test the market for the operation of its
own transmission system by commercial
contractors on a regional basis. This
would be consistent with the steps which
the BBC has already taken to test the
market for a range of support services, as
part of its general policy of devoting as
great a proportion as possible of its
resources to programmes. This would be
a useful step in itself, and would also
prepare the way for privatisation in due
course. The advent of new services —
such as the new national commercial
radio services — will open up new
commercial transmission opportunities.
The Government also envisages that the
BBC might, in the transitional period
while it retains a transmission role, be
able to arrange for its contractors to
offer a transmission service to new
entrants.

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