

From: Director of Engineering

Subject: RADIO TIMES ARTICLE : WEEK 27

13th June 1967

To: C-BBC-2

I think your proposed article is excellent, and would suggest only a few amendments, as follows:

Second paragraph, final sentence: I would rather phrase this as follows:

". . . And, third, to enable our staff to become fully acquainted with and to make the best use of the colour equipment that we now have installed during a period of limited operation before we face the problems of full-scale operation."

Third paragraph: Perhaps the wording of the press release of 20th April could be used, as follows:-

". . . transmitters at Crystal Palace (with four relays), Sutton Coldfield (with three relays), Rowridge, Winter Hill, Emley Moor and Belmont. In a few months . . . "

MKPR

Dated by Sir Francis McLean  
and signed in his absence by

  
Secretary

David Attenborough will  
ring about this at 1-45 today

**From:** Controller BBC-2

Room No &  
Building:

6066 T.C.

Tel.  
Ext.: 2937/8

date: 9th June 1967

**Subject:** RADIO TIMES : WEEK 27

**To:** D.E.

I would be most grateful for any comments you might have on this piece which is destined for the Radio Times. Technical points about compatibility, aeri-als and so on will be dealt with in a long Question and Answer article, so I have largely omitted them. As you may detect, I have tried to curb my superlatives about launching in order not to allow people to confuse it with the Full Service. I hope Sir Jules will appreciate such iron self-control.

(David Attenborough)

SS

This week we launch colour. All BBC-2's coverage of the Centre Court at Wimbledon, both live in the afternoon and recorded in the evenings, will be transmitted in colour. So will One Pair of Eyes on Saturday, Impact on Tuesday and The Virginian on Thursday. And so will Late Night Line-Up every night of the week.

We are showing these launching programmes for three main reasons. First to let viewers see for themselves just how exciting and how technically excellent colour television can be. Second to help television dealers to check on the orientation of aerials and to get experience of handling sets in regular operation. And, third, to enable us to put to its proper use the colour equipment that we now have installed and ready for public transmissions both within our studios and in Outside Broadcasts.

*To give a preview with limited service before commencing full service*

To begin with these programmes can be seen in colour in London, the Midlands, the South and the North - those areas that receive BBC-2 from the transmitters at Crystal Palace, Sutton Coldfield, Rowridge, Winter Hill and Emley Moor. In a few months, however, the special circuits linking other BBC-2 transmitters will be completed to bring the colour picture to the whole of the network.

*Relays & Subcarriers*

*Other stations*

But the launching programmes are only samples. The full service begins on December 2nd. Then, approximately eighty per cent of BBC-2 will go out in colour, and that will include all types of programmes from light entertainment shows like International Cabaret and The Black and White Minstrels, to Theatre 625 and drama serials, film documentaries and quiz shows, sport, operas and feature films.

Between then and now, the launching programmes will continue every week. Wimbledon will have come to an end, but we have other <sup>outside</sup> broadcasts in store and other documentary and light entertainment series too. Together these programmes will provide about five hours of colour a week. Many viewers are no doubt waiting to make up their minds about colour until they see it with their own eyes. We offer the launching programmes, with confidence and excitement, as evidence.

David Attenborough