

# Appendix 1

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

### 7.01

The Labour Party is committed to a domestic broadcasting system whose first concern is to viewers and listeners rather than advertisers and sponsors. We believe the BBC should continue to play a pivotal role as Britain's premier public service broadcasting organisation.

### 7.02

The Labour Party believes that accountability is a key issue in the maintenance and development of the public service broadcasting system, and wishes to see a new, more open and independent regulatory system for the BBC.

### 7.03

The Labour Party believes there should be genuine and extended public debate about the future of the BBC, and calls for the publication of an early White Paper setting out the Government's proposals. In the meantime we offer the following contribution to generate fresh debate about the status and function of the BBC.

- a. The feasibility of replacing the Royal Charter with an Act of Parliament defining the BBC's role and responsibilities and defending its independence should be investigated.
- b. The adoption of a detailed Covenant spelling out the BBC's obligations to licence fee payers.
- c. The replacement of the Board of Governors with a more representative Board of Trustees whose duty should be to regulate the BBC in accordance with the terms of the Covenant, and with powers to appoint and dismiss the Director General and the Deputy Director General.
- d. Appointment of Trustees should be preceded by public examination of their suitability by Select Committee.
- e. The creation of a new Viewers' and Listeners' Council to monitor radio and television broadcasting in Britain, provide a voice for licence-fee-payers, conduct research and combine the roles of the Broadcasting Standards Council and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission.
- f. Greater devolution of powers and budgets to BBC Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English regions, in an effort to improve the range of network, national regional and local broadcasting services.
- g. New systems of accountability to bring the BBC closer to its audiences, and allow greater public access to the airwaves.

**7.04**

The Labour Party believes that the BBC is key element in Britain's broadcasting industry and cultural life, and urges the Corporation to ensure that it retains sufficient in-house production capacity to meet its obligations to the national communities it exists to serve. We also wish to see Britain maintain and enhance its pioneering role in international broadcasting markets.

**7.05**

The Labour Party is committed to fair and just representation of the diversity of contemporary British society within the broadcasting system, and believes that BBC has a duty to ensure that adequate arrangements are made to ensure its staff and its output reflect this diversity.

**7.06**

The Labour Party is committed to good employment practices in the broadcasting industry, and believes that the BBC should lead the way with model working conditions, health and safety arrangements, and equal opportunities policies and practice.

**7.07**

The Labour Party is committed to the continuation of the arrangement by which the BBC is funded directly from the licence fee, with the World Service receiving funding from the Foreign Office. We wish to see an early decision on the long-term funding of the BBC with guarantees that a new, higher base rate will be index-linked for ten years.

**7.08**

In this document the Labour Party has examined some of the key issues, principles and options we believe that need to be debated as part of the BBC's Charter renewal process, including reform of the Broadcasting Act 1990. We shall consult widely and encourage debate about the value of a more accountable, democratic and diverse public service broadcasting system.

## Appendix 2

DR MARJORIE MOWLAM MP

Thank you very much Margaret, and thank you for fitting us in when I know how busy you are. I think Margaret has outlined and I don't need to repeat why this conference is so important to us in the Labour Party. It is an essential step in our policy making process, the kind of consultation and dialogue we are having today, so we do appreciate the time that people have taken out of their busy schedules. Margaret outlined very clearly why we feel the media industry is so crucial not only in terms of economic growth, in terms of jobs and the cultural and democratic importance of the industry. All that is very clear and it is essential to our policy making to have this dialogue today. In a sense also I feel this conference is a vote of confidence in your industry and how central we put it to the next five years into the next millennium. I am convinced that the media industry is not so much part of our heritage but part of our future and we are determined to work with you to help that industry grow, but at the same time as Margaret has said, to stress the importance of citizenship, democracy, information and the wonderful education and training opportunities. We don't know how quickly the market will move. No one knows how quickly the public

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NEW CENTURY, NEW TECHNOLOGIES  
Alan Rudge

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businesses one enormous benefit - the more efficient use of the one resource that limits us all: Time. More efficient use of time, by more efficient and effective access to information, offers the prospect of more social interaction, not less. I believe that it is critical that the government of whatever colour give the issue the attention it deserves, and, in particular, gets the regulatory issues right.

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It is our genuine fear that without competition and choice in the route to customers, much of the vaunted media and multi-media revolution will be still-born. UK media and publishing groups need the assurance that there will be competitive networks seeking to convey their products at reasonable tariffs and not tied into competing non-UK entertainment interests.

Thank you very much.

# Appendix 3

## Introduction

We stand on the threshold of a revolution as profound as that brought about by the invention of the printing press. New technologies, which enable rapid communication to take place in a myriad of different ways across the globe, and permit information to be provided, sought, and received on a scale so far unimaginable, will bring fundamental changes to all our lives.

The ways in which we do business, or study, or receive broadcast entertainment, or receive health care, or shop, or make use of public services, will be transformed. The worlds of telecommunications, broadcasting and computing will continue to merge ever more indistinguishably into one.

In the new information society, we can either allow the technology to drive these changes forward in a haphazard and incoherent fashion, or we can choose to shape them for the benefit of our community as a whole. **Labour believes that it is the duty of government to ensure that this information revolution benefits the many, not the few. In this policy paper we set out how we intend to secure that aim.**

Much has been said and written recently about the "information superhighway" - the name often given to the network of communication links that allows people to talk together, see each other and share images, text and sounds, wherever they are around the world. These links have become possible through the development of digital compression techniques, the use of fibre-optic cable, innovation in access software and new applications of radio frequency. The uses to which these links can be put give us an exciting opportunity to change the future shape of our society and economy:

- A school pupil anywhere in the country will be able to sit down at a screen in the school library and tap in to the resources of the Science Museum in London, and then debate across the networks with other pupils who share their interest.
- A doctor carrying out a diagnosis on a patient will be able to summon an immediate second opinion from an expert consultant several hundred miles away.
- The supervisor on a building site will be able to call up the architect, show them the problem, and work out an agreed solution.
- Two company executives on either side of the Atlantic will be able to work through a detailed document simultaneously.
- An elderly person will be able to have readier contact with a friend or relative or carer.
- All of us as citizens will have the chance to know more about, and to say more about, how our local authorities and national government are being run.

Over time the new information society has the potential to change things for the better. The information industries will represent one of the main wealth-creating sectors of our economy in the coming decades, they have the potential to act as a driving force in both manufacturing and service, and they can lead to the generation of many thousands of new jobs. There can be continuous improvements in business efficiency and reductions in unit prices of goods and services; new ways of selling and delivering; better targeting of market information; higher standards in education; better health care; improved access to work opportunities; more flexible patterns of work and consequently reduced unit costs for business; more efficient governmental administration; reductions in energy and transport use with

substantial environmental benefit; higher-quality care for elderly people; and for those countries that take a lead in developing the new information networks global economic opportunities to be seized. These advantages will only flow, however, if government provides the right sort of framework to enable it to happen.

In order to achieve this, Labour has set out seven fundamental objectives that we believe policy must aim for. They are:

**(i) Economic growth:** We seek to maximise the economic advantages of the development of the new networks, seizing the gains that can come from both the provision of the networks in the first place, and then from their use. We believe they can increase Britain's international competitiveness, stimulate innovation and investment and encourage the development of world leaders in media and information technology services.

**(ii) Access:** We wish to ensure that participation in the information revolution is available to all, and not just the privileged few. There must be equality of access through an integrated national network which covers all parts of the country, as extensively and affordably as possible, and in which each network system links with all others. We seek both to empower individual citizens as participants and consumers, and also to ensure equal access for the providers of services.

**(iii) Education and skills:** The new networks must be used to offer opportunities in education, training and research, assisting both personal achievement and economic development.

**(iv) Social benefits:** We will ensure that the potential is realised for new interactive information services to bring benefits in the provision of health care, the delivery of public and social services, the development of library networks and the enhancement of democracy. We also want to secure the best environmental benefits that can follow from the greater use of long-distance communication.

**(v) Cultural life:** We wish to develop the information opportunities for our cultural industries such as film, television, publishing and music, while using the position of English as a global language to the best advantage. We believe the services offered should also draw strength from the diversity of our society.

**(vi) Freedom of information:** The new networks must help to increase citizen participation in decision-making, and contribute to the development of a more open society, while at the same time respecting privacy and acknowledging legitimate rights to the ownership of information. Government itself can become more open and accessible through the process.

**(vii) Public awareness:** We seek to lead the developing public debate about the potential of the new information society, and to show that Labour will guide its progress in the national interest.

**Labour's basic starting point is simple: we believe that two-way broadband communication networks must be made available as widely and rapidly as possible. Enormous benefit can accrue to the British people if we are successful.**

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## Appendix 4

<p>The Conservative Manifesto 1997 You can only be sure with the Conservatives</p>	<p>The Labour Manifesto 1997 Because Britain deserves Better</p>
<p><a href="http://www.politicsresources.net/area/uk/man/con97.htm">http://www.politicsresources.net/area/uk/man/con97.htm</a> as of 20.5.2011</p>	<p><a href="http://www.politicsresources.net/area/uk/man/lab97.htm">http://www.politicsresources.net/area/uk/man/lab97.htm</a> as of 20.5.2011</p>
<p><i>The Information Society</i> Britain is at the forefront of creating tomorrow's information society. Already we have exposed domestic telecommunications to competition and stimulated investment in cable and satellite entertainment systems. And by opening up international telecommunications we will continue to encourage companies worldwide to base their global operations here. We will make sure that the digital revolution comes to Britain first. We are launching an ambitious programme with industry to spread "IT for All", giving every adult the opportunity to try out and learn about new IT services. We will work with industry to ensure that all schools are connected to the information superhighway. We will use the Millennium Lottery Fund to transform the computer facilities and information links available in schools, libraries, museums, voluntary organisations and other public places after the turn of the century. This will give the public much wider access to information services in the years ahead. We will also take advantage of information technology to transform the way government provides services to the public. We will keep Britain in the vanguard of new mobile service development - including mobile telephone and information services - by introducing a pricing system for the radio spectrum to achieve more efficient allocation of radio frequencies. We will maintain a strong, free and competitive broadcasting and press environment at both national and local level, while continuing to be vigilant in monitoring whether action is needed to curb breaches of standards, and prevent unacceptable press intrusion.</p>	<p><i>Media and broadcasting</i> Labour aims for a thriving, diverse media industry, combining commercial success and public service. We will ensure that the BBC continues to be a flagship for British creativity and public service broadcasting, but we believe that the combination of public and private sectors in competition is a key spur to innovation and high standards. The regulatory framework for media and broadcasting should reflect the realities of a far more open and competitive economy, and enormous technological advance, for example with digital television. Labour will balance sensible rules, fair regulation and national and international competition, so maintaining quality and diversity for the benefit of viewers.</p>



<p>Conservative Party 1992 The best future for Britain <a href="http://www.politicsresources.net/area/uk/man/con92.htm#mill">http://www.politicsresources.net/area/uk/man/con92.htm#mill</a> as of 20.5.2011</p>	<p>Labour Party Manifesto 1992 It's time to get Britain working again <a href="http://www.politicsresources.net/area/uk/man/lab92.htm">http://www.politicsresources.net/area/uk/man/lab92.htm</a> as of 20.5.2011</p>
<p><b>BROADCASTING</b> We are proud of our record of extending choice, encouraging new producers and maintaining high standards in broadcasting. We opened the way to the setting-up of Channel 4, independent radio, satellite television and multi-channel cable TV networks. The 1990 Broadcasting Act means that three new independent radio services and a fifth television channel will be set up during the next Parliament.</p> <p>Over two million homes already receive satellite TV. We have now licensed well over a hundred cable TV networks and this new industry expects to invest £3,000 million over the next five years. In coming years, British viewers will have an increasing choice of channels and programmes. The new and sophisticated cable networks will open the way not only to new telecommunication services, but also to the spread of emerging technologies such as high definition television.</p> <p>We attach great importance to the work of the Broadcasting Standards Council, which we set up under the 1990 Act. All television and radio companies accept the need to maintain standards of taste and decency in their treatment of sex and violence and their use of bad language.</p>	<p>We will safeguard press freedom</p> <p>We will remove unjustified restrictions on broadcasting and establish an urgent enquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into the concentration of media ownership. If the press fail to deal with abuses of individual privacy, we will implement the Calcutt Report's recommendations for statutory protection. Individuals must be able to control personal information about themselves. We will strengthen Britain's Data Protection Act in line with European practice. The security services will be brought under the scrutiny of a Parliamentary Select Committee.</p>
<p>The European Community regulates standards in satellite broadcasts originating from each Member State. We were one of the first countries to ratify a new Council of Europe convention applying similar rules to all its Member States. We also, in the Broadcasting Act, brought in sanctions against the transmission of offensive satellite broadcasts from abroad, and made it an offence for advertisers and equipment suppliers to support such programmes.</p> <p>Independent television producers are benefiting from the requirement put on the BBC and ITV to commission a quarter of all their programmes, excluding the news, from outsiders. There are now great opportunities for independent producers to sell their programmes to new television channels and international markets, and there is much greater choice for viewers as a result.</p> <p>In 1996, the BBC's Charter comes up for renewal. This will be considered against the background of the much more varied and competitive broadcasting environment which our policies have created. It is important that there should be a wide public debate about the future direction the BBC should take.</p>	<p>We will back the work of the Broadcasting Standards Council and remain vigilant about ensuring high standards in satellite broadcasts from abroad.</p> <p>We will publish a discussion paper on the future of the BBC recognising its special responsibilities for providing public service broadcasting.</p>

