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CABINET.

BROADCASTING POLICY.

MEMORANDUM BY THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

1. At their meeting on Monday, the 17th December (C.M. (45) 63rd Conclusions, Minute 2) the Cabinet asked for a further opportunity of considering the report on broadcasting policy (C.P. (45) 293).

2. As my colleagues will remember, conclusions were reached at that meeting on two important questions, namely, the increase in the wireless receiving licence fee and the continuation of the European Service with the consequential rearrangement of programmes in the Home Services. As a result of the discussion I take it that the Cabinet also agree:

- (a) that it is unnecessary to hold a public enquiry before the B.B.C.'s Charter is renewed (Recommendation 1);
- (b) that the B.B.C. should retain its monopoly of the right of originating broadcasts in this country and that its Charter should be renewed for a further period of ten years from the 1st January, 1947 (Recommendation 2).

3. My colleagues will no doubt have points to raise on the remaining recommendations of the report, but it may be of some assistance if I set out what seem to me to be the most important of them. These are:—

- (i) The B.B.C. should be under obligation to broadcast an adequate and impartial daily account of the proceedings in both Houses of Parliament. (Recommendation 22.)
- (ii) The cost of all B.B.C. services should be borne out of a single Broadcasting Vote, and the cost of overseas broadcasting should be borne by the Exchequer independent of any licence fee revenue. (Recommendation 24.)
- (iii) An attempt should be made to eliminate commercial broadcasting directed to this country from overseas. (Recommendation 25.)

4. I hope that the Cabinet will find it possible to conclude their consideration of the report before my departure for Canada.

H. M.

Office of the Lord President of the Council,
18th December, 1945.

