

Sir Robert Armstrong, KCB., CVO.,
Secretary of the Cabinet,
Cabinet Office,
70 Whitehall,
LONDON
SW1A 2AS

Your Ref: A01368

CABINET OFFICE
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FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No.

15th February 1980

Dear Sir Robert,

Thank you for your letter dated February 8th.

I was very pleased to be able to talk to you on the telephone yesterday evening when I was able to discuss with you the comments you have made on the scripts of a series which the B.B.C. are planning to transmit entitled "Lord Mountbatten Remembers".

As promised, I am writing now to confirm some of the points which we discussed:-

1. The B.B.C. have accepted that the Trustees gave certain undertakings to the Secretary of the Cabinet in a letter of Agreement dated March 30th 1969. It is written into the contract between the B.B.C. and the Trustees that any amendments or omissions required by the Government would be accepted.
2. With regard to the questions of confidentiality, I have discussed these with the B.B.C. and all the suggestions contained in your letter will be incorporated into revised versions of the scripts.
3. With regard to the points you make on matters of taste and judgment, as I mentioned to you on the telephone, the scripts which you received were the first drafts and had not been seen by the Trustees or members of the family. By the time that we had received your comments, all the important ones, e.g. the story about Admiral Edwards and the description of Sir Anthony Eden's illness by his valet, had already been removed at our request.
4. With regard to the timing of the actual transmission of the programmes, this of course does cause a considerable problem for the B.B.C. However, they accept that it is impossible for the programmes to be broadcast at the moment, but they are very much hoping to be able to do so in the first week of September, which would be roughly a year after my father-in-law's assassination. You agreed that we should contact you again in June to see if September transmission would be possible.

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Prime Minister

*This seems to be going well.
Sir Robert Armstrong has plainly
been very persuasive.
Agreed ref.*

John

1980

Sir Robert Armstrong, KCB., CVO.

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5. I agreed that we would now ask the B.B.C. to revise the scripts and to send them to you as soon as possible with all the alterations, omissions, and amendments.

Finally, I would like to thank you very much for all the trouble you have taken over this matter. I know that my father-in-law was most keen that these programmes should be transmitted reasonably soon after his death, although obviously that event took place sooner than he had anticipated. However, I would like to assure you that the Trustees and, of course, the family very much share your views regarding matters of taste and judgment.

Yours sincerely

Baroness