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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

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CCW
NBM
6 August 1985

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

Dear Willie

COPYRIGHT LICENSING

I have seen Grey Gowrie's letter to you of 10 July about photocopying of copyright material, and the approach to departments by the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd (CLA). *was request to reqd.*

2 I do not disagree with Grey's view that the Government should not enter into a photocopying agreement on the basis of CLA's current proposal. However, I am concerned, as he is, that non-participation may be construed as being inconsistent with our encouragement of voluntary blanket licensing schemes in the 1981 Copyright Green Paper. I therefore regard it as important that our reluctance to subscribe to the CLA scheme should be explained solely in terms of the demerits of the scheme itself, and should not be linked to the expected White Paper or to the likelihood of imminent new legislation. This necessarily requires that our response to CLA should be presented as the start of an (albeit protracted) negotiating process, and not as a refusal to discuss matters until new legislation is in place.

3 I agree with Grey that there should be a single centralised Government response to CLA, and I am content that his Department should deal with it. My Department's policy role on copyright would not make it an appropriate spokesman for the Government as 'consumer' of copyright material. It would suggest, though, that this officials should discuss their response to CLA with mine before sending it.



4 My proposals for reform of this and other areas of copyright law will be presented to H later this year. They will include a number of proposals designed to facilitate the operation of blanket licensing schemes such as CLA's.

5 I am copying this letter to Grey Gowrie, members of H Committee and Ministers in charge of Departments.

*Yours
Norman*

NORMAN TEBBIT

