

BEFORE THE
Federal Communications Commission

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

In the Matter of)
COMSAT Corporation)
)
Petition for Partial Relief from)
the Current Regulatory Treatment)
of COMSAT World Systems' Video)
and Audio Services)

RM-7913
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MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Capital Cities/ABC, Inc., CBS Inc., National
Broadcasting Company, Inc. and Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.
(collectively, "the Networks"), by their attorneys, hereby
request an extension of time from December 23, 1996, until
January 17, 1997, to comment on the Petition of COMSAT
Corporation For Partial Relief ("Petition") filed in the above-
captioned proceeding. The Networks submit that the requested
extension of time will allow them to prepare a more focused and
comprehensive pleading that will facilitate the FCC's
decisionmaking in this proceeding. COMSAT's attorney has
represented to the Networks that COMSAT consents to this motion
for extension of time.

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BACKGROUND

On July 1, 1994, COMSAT filed with the FCC a petition and supporting economic study (the 1994 Brattle Report) in which COMSAT claimed that all of the services COMSAT provides via the INTELSAT system, including but not limited to international video and audio transmission services, were sufficiently competitive that the FCC should allow COMSAT to provide all of its services under streamlined tariff authority. The Networks filed comments opposing only that portion of COMSAT's petition seeking a reduction in the tariff filing requirements for COMSAT's international video and audio transmission services.

In an August 15, 1996, Order, the Commission granted COMSAT streamlined tariff relief for most of its services but found that COMSAT had not demonstrated good cause for changing the tariff rules governing COMSAT's international video and audio transmission services. On October 25, 1996, COMSAT filed with the Commission the instant Petition accompanied by a new study (the 1996 Brattle Report) in which COMSAT argues that changed circumstances since 1994 now justify the granting of streamlined tariff relief for its international video and audio transmission services. The Commission issued public notice of COMSAT's Petition on November 21, 1996.

DISCUSSION

The Networks have a substantial interest in the Petition in which COMSAT argues that circumstances in the

marketplace for transoceanic video and audio transmission services have changed since 1994 and that it is now entitled to streamlined tariff relief for these services. The Networks are large users of COMSAT's international video and audio transmission services, using them to bring fast-breaking news stories, sporting events, and other programming from overseas to the public.

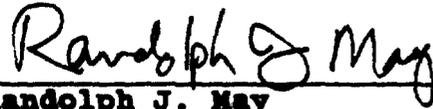
In order to prepare meaningful comments on COMSAT's Petition, the Networks need to review COMSAT's materials, obtain information from Network operational personnel concerning the competitive state of the transoceanic video and audio transmission service marketplace, and coordinate with other Network personnel on formulating a position on the significant issues raised in COMSAT's Petition. Coordination with personnel from four different television networks is particularly difficult at this time of year when such personnel often are unavailable because of travel. In order to prepare meaningful comments on COMSAT's Petition, therefore, the Networks require an extension of time from December 23, 1996 to January 17, 1997.

The modest extension of time to January 17, 1997, should not delay the Commission's action on COMSAT's Petition by any appreciable amount of time because the Commission's

decisionmaking process will benefit from the more complete record
that the Networks can help build.

Respectfully submitted,

CAPITAL CITIES/ABC, INC.
CBS INC.
NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.
TURNER BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC.



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December 10, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

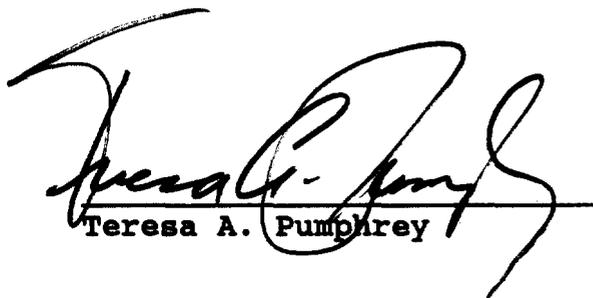
I, **Teresa A. Pumphrey**, hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Motion for Extension of Time for Capital Cities/ABC, CBS, NBC, and TBS was served by hand and/or first-class mail, postage prepaid, this 10th day of December, 1996 on the following persons:

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*/ Served by hand.