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JUN 17 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

June 17, 1997

**William S. Caton**  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: EX PARTE in Merger of British Telecommunications plc and MCI  
Communications Corporation, General Docket No. 96-245

Dear Mr. Caton:

On June 16, 1997, James Graf of BTNA, Anthony C. Epstein of Jenner & Block, and I met with Diane Cornell and Kerry Murray of the International Bureau to discuss pending issues in the above-captioned case.

The issues discussed were status of staff requests for further information, timing of regulatory approvals and the parties' business plans, and issues raised by interested parties in other forums on the availability of backhaul to new entrants on the U.S./U.K. route with respect to the U.S. end of the circuits. As to the latter issue, we discussed the likelihood of resolving any concerns about availability of backhaul in other forums and overlapping Commission jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

  
Mary L. Brown

CC: Diane Cornell  
Kerry Murray

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