



THE MONOPOLIES AND MERGERS COMMISSION

**The Birmingham Post and Mail
Holdings PLC
and
Yattendon Investment Trust Ltd**

A report on the proposed transfer of the newspapers
of the Birmingham Post and Mail Holdings PLC
to the ultimate control of the trustees
of Lord Iliffe's 1969 Settlement

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
by Command of Her Majesty
May 1985*

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**Group appointed to discharge the functions of the Commission
in relation to the investigation into the proposed transfer
of the newspapers of Birmingham Post and Mail Holdings PLC
to the ultimate control of the trustees of Lord Iliffe's
1969 Settlement**

1. In pursuance of the powers vested in him by virtue of section 4 of the Fair Trading Act 1973 and Part II of Schedule 3 thereto, the Chairman directed that the functions of the Commission in relation to the proposed transfer of the newspapers of Birmingham Post and Mail Holdings PLC to the ultimate control of the Trustees of Lord Iliffe's 1969 Settlement reference should be discharged through a group consisting of the following members of the Commission:

Mr P H Dean
Mr H L Gibson
Sir Godfray Le Quesne
Sir Ronald Swayne

2. He further appointed himself, being a member of the group, to act as Chairman of the group.

3. In pursuance of the powers vested in him by virtue of section 4 of the said Act and paragraph 22 of Schedule 3 thereto, the Secretary of State appointed for the purpose of this investigation the following additional members who, by virtue of the said paragraph 22, were also members of the group:

Sir Alastair Burnet
Dr John Stevenson

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry received an application dated 23 January 1985 for his consent under section 58 of the Fair Trading Act 1973 (the 1973 Act) to the transfer of certain newspapers of which Mr R P R Iliffe (Mr Iliffe) is the proprietor to the ultimate control of the trustees of Lord Iliffe's 1969 Settlement. On 21 February 1985 the Secretary of State, in pursuance of section 59 of the Act, referred the proposed transfer to the Commission for investigation and report. The newspapers concerned are listed in the reference, the text of which is reproduced at Appendix 1.1. We are required by section 60(1) to make our report within three months of the date of the reference.

1.2 A notice inviting any person or organisation to submit to the Commission evidence on the proposed transfer was inserted in the *Financial Times*. Notices were also inserted in the *Coventry Evening Telegraph* and in five other newspapers included in the reference. We also invited comments from the Newspaper Society, the Press Council, the CBI and the TUC, and from the Daily News which circulates a free newspaper in competition with the Iliffe newspapers in the Birmingham area.

1.3 We thank those who helped us in our inquiry and in particular Mr Iliffe and the other two trustees of Lord Iliffe's 1969 Settlement.