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10 DOWNING STREET

~~Mr Pascali~~

Do you know what is happening to DBS? Is the Home Secretary's tactic of appearing to support it while letting it collapse under its own weight with no blame attaching to the Government now beginning to work.

Mr Turnbull

AT

26/6

It is too early to say. Progress is being made slowly. 15 private sector companies have applied to join the consortium (including Thom, we believe) and these have to be interviewed by IBA. The Home Secretary and Jeffrey Stirling are still playing prominent roles. Unisat seems to have missed a 1987 launch but talks with Unisat have not yet started. So much for the earlier notice. So in summary it is unclear whether the DBS consortium will fly or crash. If the latter, the 15 applicants have given IBA confidence that a commercial DBS could be viable. BSK are talking of high definition TV.

ESP 26/6