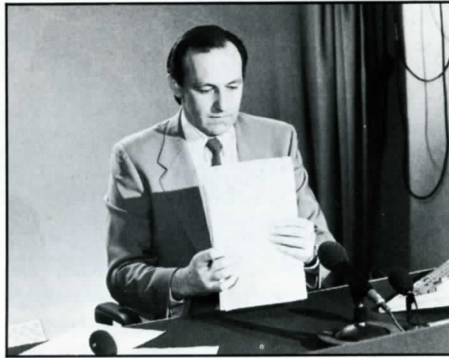


ITN

THE LENS

The Staff Newspaper for Independent Television News Special Edition February 1988

Into the history books as ITN launches Into the Night service



Last minute editorial values are discussed as the clock edges towards the first deadline. Meanwhile, the production department does some fine tuning and final checks. Rehearsals over, David Cass just has time for one last look at the clock before starting a history-making broadcast.

And by only its second bulletin, the team is able to trail a British exclusive—an interview with the pilot and co-pilot of the Bulgarian plane which was nearly involved in a mid-air collision with a British aircraft.

And after a hard day's night, the team relaxes in the Groucho Club at a celebration party. In a fitting tribute, Editor David Nicholas who was the first to telephone through his congratulations after the first broadcast, raises his glass to toast the team, its professionalism and dedication.

The team tucks in to a welcome breakfast before going home for a good day's sleep.



Inside . . .

DAVID MANNION gives us an account of the preparation required in the lead-up to the launch of the twilight service. *It'll be alright Into the Night.* PAGE TWO

ITN'S EARLY MORNING CALL. A behind the scenes look at the launch night. PAGE THREE

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES. We fill in some of the details of the people who will be producing the programmes every night. *The Team.* PAGE FOUR and FIVE

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID. We focus on the Fleet Street comments about the launch and give you some on-the-night quotes. PAGE SIX

MIKE MORRIS who helped devise and create the service recalls the calendar of events leading up to the historic February 15 date. *Stepping into the forefront of news.* PAGE SEVEN

DAVID NICHOLAS gives us his reaction to the launch and hopes for the future. *A hard day's night.* PAGE EIGHT

PLUS pictures of the night and celebration party.

It'll be alright Into the Night

DAVID MANNION has had the awesome task of guiding the launch team for *Into the Night*. And while another chorus of *Night and Day* may send him round the bend, he notes: Moonlight becomes ITN, it goes with the . . . programming



OK, I can take a joke . . . but if anyone else wanders past me on the stairs singing "Night and Day, you are the one", I shall not be responsible for my actions.

Mind you, helping to launch ITN's *Into the Night* service along with a 'day' job on *Channel Four News*, a Sunday shift on *The World This Week* and a couple of other part-time responsibilities has apparently qualified me for a listing in the Yellow Pages as a 24-hour service! What's more I don't get overtime! Alright, alright—the hard luck story ends here so you can put down those imaginary violins.

Actually, I'm having a wonderful time. The responsibilities are awesome and sometimes I get the feeling that the whole world is relying on little ol' me, but it's a real treat none the less to be in at the birth of a new television service. February 15 will, after all, be a date for the broadcasting history books.

And with that date bearing down upon me, it's as well to remember what's been achieved by unions and management alike. It was just 9 months ago when Mike Morris told me what was intended. Since then a whole raft of agreements have been thrashed out enabling the service to begin. That, in itself, has been

a remarkable achievement.

So too has been the pace at which the 30 night-time staff have been recruited. During the run up I have been working mainly, but not exclusively, with the editorial staff, the directors and the graphics artists and I want to place on record how much I have appreciated their good humoured enthusiasm. It's been damned hard work so far, but the fact that we've had a lot of fun on the way has made life so much easier than it



**February 15 will
after all be a date for
the broadcasting
history books**



might have been.

From February 15, most of the major ITV companies will be taking from ITN regular news summaries through the night leading up to the hour-long programme between 5am and 6am—with breathtaking originality we decided to call it the *ITN Morning News*. With just four journalists on each shift you will gather that there won't be much time for

a crafty kip behind the filing cabinet. The *ITN Morning News* will contain live news updates, sport, financial news and a bit of weather and travel information when it's justified. The two main recorded chunks will be a re-run of the *ITN World News* and about 20 minutes of interesting and off beat material taken from overnight CNN.

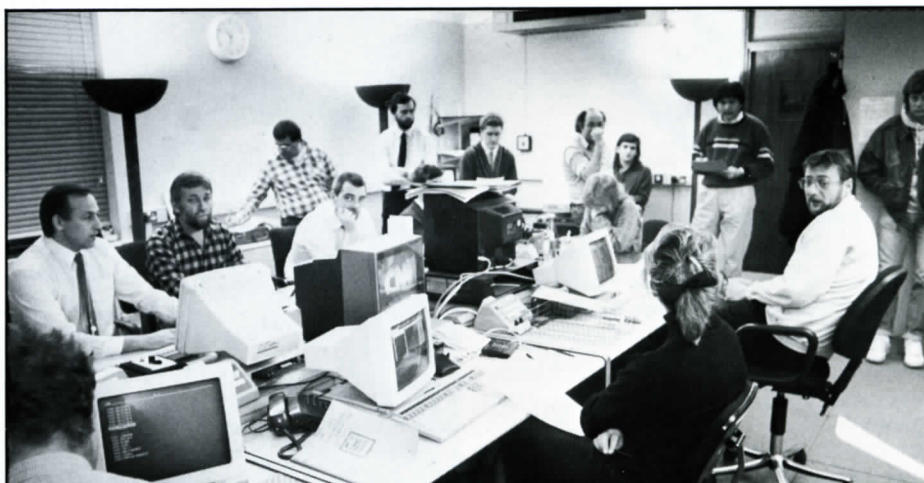
If you think that sounds a bit of an odd mix . . . well so did I until we sat down to work out the details and got to grips with a few dry runs.

Actually it turns out to be a very watchable and lively package.

So who's going to be watching all this? The only guide we have is from Thames which has been running the *ITN World News* and a bulletin from CNN in the 5am to 6am slot for some months. And guess what? There really are people out there who tune in regularly. They're mainly early risers, shift workers, David Nicholas and Stewart Purvis. Still, we've got to start somewhere!

So wish Simon, Nigel, Zeinab, David and the rest of the 'Red Eye' brigade well as they take their great leap into the night. Because as the first bulletin hits the air, ITN becomes the only television news organisation in Europe to broadcast around the clock.

No false alarms for ITN'S EARLY MORNING CALL



A very youthful Steve McQueen was being chased off screen by an angry-looking ewe in an episode of *Wanted Dead or Alive* and by the look on the ewe's face, it would be the former. But in ITN House, no-one had time to watch that screen, the other TV, showing a clock ticking away, was far more compelling. It was past midnight on February 15, 1988, and the countdown to the launch of ITN's *Into the Night* news service had begun.

As the hands edged towards 12.30, the final rehearsal was completed and David Cass, one of the two night-time presenters, appeared on screen to introduce the first headline bulletin. The broadcast went without a hitch.

As the cameras rolled, the staff watched with a mixture of excitement and quiet confidence. For the first night of production, everyone was incredibly calm and relaxed. Even if some were already thinking about getting some sleep! Throughout the evening, however, there was no sign of nerves, the newsroom even had time for a joke and a laugh. But then the team knew that they would be launching in style—with a British exclusive.

The scoop—an interview with the pilot and co-pilot of the Bulgarian plane which was nearly involved in a mid-air collision with a British aircraft over the Channel—was the result of routine logging of all international television news.

David Mannion explained: "We were watching an insert originating from Bulgarian State Television, when an interview with the pilot and co-pilot of the Bulgarian plane came on—my big surprise was that they were interviewed in English."

The exclusive couldn't have come at a better time. Not only did it herald in fine style the first *Into the Night ITN Morning News* but it also emphasised the purpose and idea of having a twilight service. Mannion added: "It's the great thing about our news service—it's getting the stories out earlier than any other TV programme in Britain."

Even if the team hadn't had a big story

to break, the evening would have been a resounding success. It was a slick, professional operation which is all credit to the skeleton staff working in conditions which allow no margin for error.

"We went on air on time, every time, and went off air on time, every time. I think we can be reasonably pleased with ourselves," said David Cass who was still buzzing around the building at lunchtime.

"We got lucky by having a good story to break on the first night, it's not often that happens. But it was all pretty relaxed. It shows the practice, though brief, was useful."

The team had only five nights of pilot runs before launch—and in fact, most of the team only joined the company on February 1. Despite this, they remained cool and confident.

"It was excellent. The team pulled together really well," added Cass.

Further praise for the team came from production manager Martin Hurd who has been helping to set up the operation.

We went on air on time, every time, and went off air on time, every time. I think we can be reasonably pleased with ourselves

"There's no army of people like there is during the day. This is a much busier duty and the staff are using their initiative and working in a very different environment.

"If a computer breaks down, they've got to fix it themselves. There's no back-up. Some nights they are going to be producing one and a half hour's worth of bulletins."

And it is precisely this challenge which attracted Keith Cockerton for one. An ex BBC video tape editor, he said: "I wanted to escape from being a cog in an enormous organisation and join a small dedicated team." His view is shared by all the *Into the Night* staff.

The launch itself was full of last minute drama and excitement. A deal with STV still hung in the balance with two days to go and it was only on Saturday evening that an agreement was finalised. The company's acceptance meant six ITV regions were receiving the first programmes.



MARTIN ATKIN, programme director. After working as a freelance reporter for newspapers and radio stations, joined BBC TV Leeds as a journalist. Since 1985 has been studio director for BBC TV news. Enjoys vegetarian food, off-road driving and the cinema.

IAN AUGER, vision mixer. At the BBC since 1985, first as a direct entry engineer, then as vision mixer on live programmes. Most recently senior operator. Hobbies include electronics, computing and sailing.

ZEINAB BADAWI, presenter. Joined ITN at the beginning of the year from BBC Manchester where she was a reporter on *Brass Tacks*. She has also worked on *Calendar*, *7 Days*, *A Question of Economics* and *The Politics of Food*. She speaks fluent Arabic, French and Russian.

NIGEL BAKER, programme editor. Joined ITN from YTV in 1985 as a Channel 1 writer. Most recently a news editor.

DAVID BALCOMBE, floor manager. Formerly administrative director of National Youth Theatre, a position he held for a year after six years as NYT's general secretary. He also acted with the company from 1975 to 1979. Interests include sport, theatre and films.

DAVID CASS, presenter. Joined ITN in 1986 as a reporter. Has been sports editor and deputy presenter of ITN's *World News*. Will still stand in for regular presenters of the *World News*.

PHILIP CLARK, sound mixer. Joined BBC in 1980 as sound assistant, was working as supervisory operator on BBC News before joining *Into the Night*. Interests are skiing, swimming and skating.

KEITH COCKERTON, facilities editor/operator. Joined BBC in 1969 as technical assistant, held various posts. After four-year break working at Exeter University, returned to BBC as engineer.



Most recent post videotape editor on *Newsnight*, *London Plus* and *Breakfast Time*. Has completed Open University degrees in science and sociology. Interests include architecture and period house restoration.

CHRIS COTTON, camera operator. At ITN since 1982, previously worked for Kodak.

ROBERT COWAN, sound mixer. Ex BBC where he has worked as both a vision mixer and sound mixer on all the BBC's news programmes. Enjoys composing and recording songs.

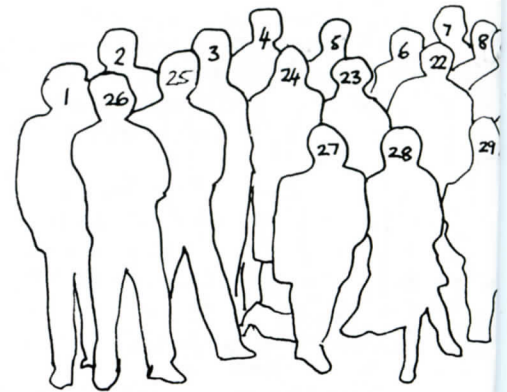
ALAN DICKINSON, facilities editor/operator. VTR operator at the BBC since 1983. Programmes include *Grandstand* and *Tomorrow's World*. Hobbies are restoring old cars and flying.

JAMES GOULD, programme director. Ex BBC where he worked as camera operator, vision mixer, assistant producer and director. Most recently has worked as a director on *Breakfast Time* and *Newsnight*. Enjoys playing the cornet and flying kites.

CHRIS HAMPSON, news editor. Has been a writer on Channel 1 since 1985.

GORDON HICKEY, facilities editor/

The Into the



1. Arthur Maimane, the only member of the ITN An ITN veteran, he will compile *World News* Richards 3. Jackson 4. Hickey 5. Holdich 6. Hollands 11. Clark 12. Cowan 13. Mannion 14. 18. Norvill 19. Millar 20. Hutcheson 21. Steve Saunders 27. Gould 28. Badawi 29. Atkin.

operator. An ITN veteran after 28 years service to the company.

LIM HO, facilities editor/operator. Joined BBC in 1983 as VTR operational engineer. Most recently worked as assistant picture editor/acting pictures and transmission editor on BBC News,



SHELAGH McHUGH, production assistant. Been with BBC since 1979 working in current affairs. Was PA on General Election Results programme. Has been on Newsnight for the past 18 months. Hobbies are reading, tennis and politics.

MIKE MARSDEN, MCR engineer. Formerly at Visnews as electronics department shift leader. Ex BBC. Interests amateur radio and TV and horseriding.

KIM MAXWELL, sound mixer. Has been a freelance sound mixer at ITN for the last year. Has been freelance for more than five years after a stint as a sound mixer at Pye Recording Studios. Is interested in music and current affairs.

KATRINA MILLAR, production assistant. Most recent position was as PA on *Breakfast Time*. Has worked on *Crime-watch UK*, *Out of Court*, *The Sky at Night* and *Dimbleby Lectures*. Enjoys skiing and tennis.

STEPHANIE NORVILL, floor manager. Has trained in the production unit at ITN for the last year after gaining a degree at Bristol University.

DENNIS RICHARDS, graphic designer. Joined ITN in 1977 as a design assistant has worked in a variety of roles since.

CHRIS SAUNDERS, camera operator. Worked at Limehouse Studios for three years as a camera operator before joining ITN last year. Is interested in the cinema and theatre.

NIGEL STEWART, sound mixer. Has worked as freelance sound assistant at ABC News, the BBC, Central, Granada, LWT and Thorn EMI. Most recently sound engineer at Virgin TV Facilities. Enjoys music, photography and chess.

MIKE WOODHOUSE, vision control operator. Spent five years at the BBC. Since May 1987 has been a vision engineer at Virgin TV Facilities. Hobbies include, Kendo and Aikido, member of Mensa, RTS and BFI.

JOHN HOLLANDS, vision mixer. After training as an electronics engineer at Ministry of Defence joined BBC. Has worked in a variety of roles there since 1978, most recently as a vision mixer. Enjoys cookery and DIY.

GARY HUTCHESON, vision control operator. With the BBC since 1974 in a number of posts including sound and vision mixing roles. Before leaving was transmission operator supervisor in charge of lighting and vision control. Interested in photography.

AMANDA JACKSON, graphic designer. Has worked in newspapers and magazines including the *Tavistock Gazette* and *The Beast Magazine*. Also worked as freelance graphic designer at Yorkshire, Thames and most recently LWT. Enjoys windsurfing and water skiing.

SANDY MacINTYRE, news editor. Previously news editor and assistant programme editor at *Grampian TV*, has also worked on local newspapers in Scotland. Is interested in football, golf, squash and music.

BRIAN McCARTHY, MCR operator. Has worked at ITN since 1982 when he joined as an MCR senior operator from the BBC.

Night Team



1. **John Hollands**, vision mixer. Works on Newsnight and Newsview. Interested in photography and gardening.
 2. **Maxwell** 7. **Cockerton** 8. **Baker** 9. **Auger** 10. **Ho** 15. **Balcombe** 16. **Marsden** 17. **Woodhouse** 22. **Dickinson** 23. **Burrell** 24. **McHugh** 25.

Newsnight and Newsview. Interested in photography and gardening.

SIMON HOLDICH, programme editor. Joined ITN in 1977 as a staff journalist after some time as a freelance writer. Has also worked in local newspapers in Doncaster and Sheffield.

What the papers said

Hello from the ITN night owls


EVENING STANDARD

ITN today unveils the two presenters who will be taking viewers through the night when the company's new service for Insomniacs starts on Monday February 15. They are 42-year-old former BBC TV presenter David Cass and 28-year-old Zeinab Badawi, who is making her debut as a network news presenter. They will appear on alternate weeks.


Viewers in seven ITV regions, including London, will see hourly news bulletins starting at 12.30 am, culminating in an hour-long morning news between 5 and 6 am. Oxford-educated Zeinab, who holds British and Sudanese nationality, will start her new working day at 10.30 pm. She speaks fluent Arabic, French and Russian as well as English.



Zeinab Badawi and David Cass.



Up bright and early to open the curtains on your morning world are David Cass and Zeinab Badawi. Each week, starting today, they will take turns as presenters of an hour-long programme of home and international news — including in-depth reports and City updates: 5.00am.



TV TIMES



PRESENTER: Night owl Zeinab with pal Ozzie

TV NEWS FOR NIGHT OWLS

TV NEWS programmes for night owls were announced yesterday... with the help of Ozzie the owl.

Ozzie met the two presenters who will front ITN's Into The Night, Britain's first 24-hour television news service, starting on February 15.

They are Zeinab Badawi, 28, and former BBC sport correspondent David Cass, 41, who will present on-the-hour bulletins for ITV stations which run programmes after midnight.

But this is Ozzie's only time in the limelight because he won't be on the show.



PRESENTER: David

Out of the dark

Television

Hugh Hebert

But it is Channel 3 that is being relentlessly transformed from duvet time till dawn. And the hour-long ITN Morning News at 5am, which began transmission this week, already looks like the best development on this front since Channel 4 News was launched. It may not have the weight or depth of the Channel 4 edition at 7pm, but that is the last thing you want at five in the morning.

What we had on the first two mornings was a slickly packaged and truly international round-up that ought to make news programmes during the rest of the day think hard about their formats. ITN has achieved this by using the World News that it has been putting out to more than a score of countries via satellite for just over a year. It has an estimated audience of 10 million.

LATE NIGHT WITH BADAWI

ZEINAB BADAWI, the presenter of ITN's all-night news service, which starts on Monday, has an impeccable curriculum vitae based on a strong intellect (BA Oxon, a further year studying Russian and French, bilingual in Arabic and English); association with some classy programmes (Channel 4's *7 Days* and *A Question of Economics*) and a strong interest in world news.

As part of a small, but high-powered team, she will be offering quite a lot of editorial input. "I'll be writing some of the stories, and cutting some of the film."

Into The Night, ITN's £2m a year contribution to ITV's expansion into 24-hour broadcasting, will be doing 2½-minute bulletins, each containing four or five stories, every hour, starting at midnight. They are designed to give shape and focus to the mixture of old films, American programming and cult youth shows with which ITV is experimenting, to see whether anyone out there is awake at 3am. It will be live, will contain film and draw heavily on round-the-world reports — but the style of presentation will be "less formal" and urgent according, to Ms Badawi. ITN accepts

But the Morning News also plugs into the Cable News Network which is already providing a satellite link to its 24-hour service. The combination, with David Cass fronting the whole show and filling in the British news, is a formidable piece of popular news casting — pacy, wide-ranging and basically serious.

On Monday they began with an interview with the Bulgarian airman who had managed to fly within pea-shooter range of a British Tristar over Kent, land, return to Sophia and turn on the local news before he heard of the air-miss. His perfectly serviceable English promptly ditched the supposition that the near-accident had been caused by the pilot's lack of language. Either that, or it showed the Bulgarians had done a quick switch of air crews.

Yesterday the five o'clock bulletin had a gift: the car which burst into flames at the entrance to Downing Street in what appeared to be an act of desperate self-immolation. By Breakfast Time this was way down the BBC news list.

But with TV-am still in difficulties, the new ITN programme, on paper at least, makes Channel 3's run-up to breakfast and the family exodus look convincing again. You just have to get up earlier to catch it. But anyone wanting a real television conspectus of what is happening in the wider world in the morning might now consider videoing the five o'clock show and running it over the crackle and pop.



Badawi: less formal presentation.

that late-night audiences need gentle treatment.

"Strong, hard-news content, but in a more relaxed manner," she says. "We will get stories by satellite from places like the United States and Brazil, the stories that are breaking around the world during the night."

The bulletins will lead into an hour-long programme at 5am, largely compiled from the previous evening's ITN *SuperChannel News*, which goes out by satellite across Europe.

Ms Badawi will have four days off each week, which looks to her like the ideal opportunity to study more. So she is taking a course in Middle Eastern Studies.

Frances Farrer

LAUNCH QUOTES



- "There really are people out there who tune in regularly (to night services). They're mainly early risers, shift workers, David Nicholas and Stewart Purvis." **David Manion.**
- "We have all been getting a bit confused about when it actually starts. Whether it's Sunday, Monday or Monday, Tuesday. Still, it's OK because I'm not working the first night anyway." **Gary Hutcheson,** vision control operator.
- "We've been running around panicking for the last fifteen minutes. We're exhausted now so we're just going to get on with it." **Sound department** at 12.10 am, February 15.
- "It's the biggest single intake of production people we've ever had at ITN. It's very challenging." **Mike Raycroft,** production training.
- "Sometimes these people are going to be putting out seven bulletins a night on a skeleton staff. If anything goes wrong they don't have any backup. They're on their own." **Martin Hurd,** production manager.
- "From February 15, when our daytime bulletins start up in the morning, the staff will hit the ground with their feet running. The night team will transform our speed of reaction to stories which happen in the dark hours. It's a major step forward." **David Nicholas.**
- "It was one of those occasions where the men didn't know if they were meant to be casual or in suits. Even if I'd worn my pyjamas I'd still have been in stripes." Pin-striped **Huw Roberts.**

DAILY MIRROR

THE INDEPENDENT

THE GUARDIAN



Stepping into the forefront of news



MIKE MORRIS recalls the events leading up to the launch of *Into the Night*

It was during the General Election campaign that I was asked to manage the night project and I suppose nine months is a fair span from conception to birth.

When I presented my plan to senior management last June, I rated its chance of success about 50-50 and some people said that was optimistic. Only a few ITV companies had started night broadcasting, and none were showing much interest in news. Agreements with the unions would have to be negotiated from scratch with no guarantee of success without either severe conflict or far too high a price.

Privately, I thought the network would give us the biggest problem. Paul Mathews and Stewart Purvis worked unceasingly on the programme controllers and planners, persuading them of the benefits a live news presence would



MATHEWS

bring, and the companies gradually came to realise that a good audience existed 'out there'.

The breakthrough came in the autumn when Thames decided to schedule ITN's *World News* as a repeat the next morning at 5am, followed by half-an-hour of the *American Cable News Network* live. It was popular with early risers, but much of the live American material was irrelevant. Stewart Purvis saw the possibility of an hour-long ITN programme and the *ITN Morning News* was born.

While interest in an ITN service was developing in the network, the work of negotiating the terms for staff to work at night was under way. The *Into the Night* presentations and video in the summer created much interest, but hard questions remained. How much would people be paid? What would the working hours be? How many would be in the team? How would leave be covered?

As the negotiations ground on through the autumn, the unions showed determination to get the night service going, but far from having to foist it onto a reluctant network, we now found that the companies wanted more and sooner than we had bargained for.

Staffing levels were reviewed to take

**I
can hardly
believe it but,
from now on, there will
never be a time
when the news
desk is not
staffed**

account of the *Morning News* and a deadline of February 15 was fixed. The pressure was on to complete the negotiations by Christmas, so that the successful applicants could give notice and have a fair chance of turning up on February 1.

The night service will bring huge benefits to ITN. Suddenly, we are 'open all hours'. From now on ITN House will always have a live production and transmission capability. As David Nicholas so graphically puts it: "We will no longer be a 'darkened' station for ten hours of every twenty-four." Our journalists and production teams will never be more than a few hours from a deadline.

On the news input side, the benefits are even more dramatic. We will never have to gear ourselves up from a standing start to cover a big story breaking in the night. I can hardly believe it but, from now on, there will never be a time when the news desk is not staffed. Future news editors and foreign editors will be spared the dreaded 3am phone call which I still have nightmares about from my days on the desk.

A lively, urgent, wide-awake voice from the other side of the world telling you a president has been shot, a British airliner has crashed or a war has started. You know that the success of ITN's coverage may depend on decisions you take that instant—if you can wake up,

if you can remember which day of the week it is.

The night hours offer an opening for special programmes too, particularly for events in America and the Far East. ITN, with its blue water reach, is uniquely equipped to offer programmes to the network at night. Already our coverage of the US election campaign has been transformed through our ability to offer live coverage of the results of all the key primary elections, the first of which, New Hampshire, comes up three days (or rather nights) into the service.

There is an element of the night service which I believe is very significant. As part of some very tough negotiations with the ACTT about the size of the night crew, the union has agreed that in certain defined circumstances skills may be shared between



PURVIS

technicians who previously would not think of doing each other's jobs.

Training is being organised for the night teams to make sure that these shared skills are acquired and practised. I welcome this development. I believe that in many parts of our operation, people are too narrowly restricted in what they can do. This can lead to wasteful use of people's time and frustration for others who would like to widen their horizons. This is an issue which we will be returning to in other areas.

I believe that skill-sharing, carefully introduced by agreement, could open the door to lower costs and more interesting work. Before we reject this idea as too revolutionary to consider, it's worth pointing out that for most of the night staff, no training in second skills is necessary. They come from an old-established broadcasting corporation where such skill-sharing has been taken for granted for years.

It was a hard day's night

David Nicholas speaks to Susan d'Arcy: "It was a very good launch and I was very pleased with the programme. It was a comparatively light day for news but David Mannion noticed a good exclusive in the Bulgarian pilot story. That gave the programme a very sharp start. And the team showed great enthusiasm and professionalism.

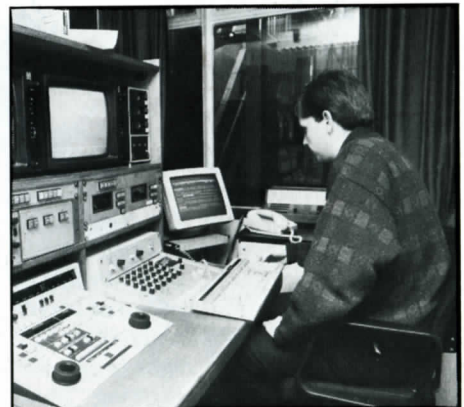
It is a unique blend of Anglo-American news which I think the audience will really enjoy. It's novel and though I can't see us extending it on to other programmes, I think it works well.

I think the live updates from David Cass, then the World News read by John Suetet and then more updated world news, financial news and then sport was good. The combined hour passed very quickly and was full of rich material.

We won't know how many people viewed for a while yet but I hope that by this time next year we will be seeing an average of 750,000—a total any newspaper would be proud to have.



More pictures from the historic launch night



PICTURES BY JOHN CURTIS

and from the day . . .

The main advantage for ITN of the service is that yet again it demonstrates when ITN gets an opportunity it can put together a programme which looks different from other news programmes.

But the fact is that it is miles out of date—and has been strenuously argued for years—that a TV station should not close down at 11pm. With *Into the Night* we are now always fully staffed.

We are covered for any big story that breaks during the night. And the law of averages means several major stories each year will break during the night and not be reported till breakfast.

It's a new service so let's see how it goes. I don't know what will happen in the future. The whole night-time network is an experiment. The point is that as late as last September we couldn't have foreseen this development, the pace has been very fast.

But on our service. We have produced good developing headlines and a blockbuster hour-long programme which was good. The team worked well and we can look forward to giving an even better service to our viewers."

