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Havers acts to silence pirates

By Dennis Barker

The Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, has authorised the commercial Radio Mercury station in the Crawley area of Sussex, to apply for an injunction preventing the pirate station Radio Jackie from broadcasting in its area. The action will be technically in the name of the Attorney-General in defence of the public rather than private right.

It is thought to be the first time in ten years that the Attorney-General has become involved in action against a pirate station, and follows a campaign by the Independent Broadcasting Authority to tighten up on pirates who do not pay IBA Rentals or contributor's fees.

Radio Jackie's main catchment area was immediately to the south west of London, but according to Mr John Aumonier, managing director of Radio Mercury, it is now extending its range to the area for which Radio Mercury took up the legal franchise a year ago.

"Radio Jackie is the most dangerous example of the current airwave anarchy," said Mr Aumonier. The legal action against the station and its proprietor, Mr Antony Collis, had the full support of the IBA, who welcomed the Attorney-General's involvement.

The Government's policy is to push ahead with its support of a new community radio network, which would fill the local broadcasting needs now being met by pirates. A junior Home Office Minister, Mr David Mellor, making this clear in the Commons yesterday, said the Government saw "a great deal of scope" for such a development.

Mr Mellor added that it would be open to illegal broadcasters to apply for licences if they met the rules. At present, pirate stations observed no common standards, paid no royalties and plagiarised news broadcasts.

The Government, said Mr Mellor, was committed to free enterprise and competition, but it did not subscribe to notions of unfair and illegal competition.

marine

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plunge

ER fisherman disappeared in the murky waters of the sea at Axmouth, Devon, his home-made inflatable boat, and later was described as a "piece of cake." The man, aged 47, of Axmouth, near Hoxton, was lowered in his inflatable boat by crane, and recovered by two divers, before 8 a.m. Mr Mellor, who watched the man said afterwards that he had no doubts about the man's fate. He added: "To start with he was... said that his... which cost £6,000 to... includes an... dome was... ble and stable... all, there were no... plans to explore... the sea in it."

British Standard computer

British Standard sets limits for signals from computer environments. BS 6527, titled *Specification for limits and requirements of spurious signals emitted by data processing and office equipment*, is the first to specify limits for the periodic binary pulsed signals coupled via mains cables, and other leads, or by direct... requirements are made from 20 to 30 MHz for mains borne interference, and from 30 MHz to 100 MHz for radiated interference. The limits and methods are based on progress within the International Special Committee on Interference (CISPR).

Radio Mercury sues Radio Jackie

Radio Mercury, the independent local radio station based in Crawley, West Sussex, UK, is suing the owner of Radio Jackie, Tony Collis, for damages caused by an alleged loss of advertising revenue because of Radio Jackie's unlicensed broadcasts in an overlapping service area.

Radio Mercury also sought an injunction against Mr Collis, to prevent him from future unlicensed broadcasting in the area. Mr Collis, however, has already given an undertaking to the High Court in London that he will no longer operate the station.

Radio Jackie continues to broadcast, apparently without Mr Collis's involvement. The station says it can stay on the air without being in contempt of court. It also intends to fight the action in the EEC European Court of Justice.