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Banned UK film to be shown?

It is unlikely that a television film about alleged corruption at a British intelligence base in Hongkong will be shown here following the cancellation of its screening in the UK on Monday night.

But the Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing, Mr Nigel Watt, has not ruled it out.

He said yesterday the film, a Granada *World in Action* production, would be "considered on its merits like any other film."

A spokesman for the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which monitors the output of Britain's commercial radio and television stations, said the film "breached the Official Secrets Act and led to a danger to national security."

About 70 Labour Mem-

bers of Parliament later attacked the move in a Commons' motion.

An official at Granada said talks were going on to see if the documentary, which was cancelled one hour before its scheduled screening, could be shown at a future date.

"We offered the programme in the belief that it was in the public interest and would improve national security," said the official.

The documentary covered allegations by a former serviceman who once worked at the Little Sai Wan monitoring station in Hongkong.

The centre, funded by the Foreign Office, is reportedly the largest British intelligence operation and monitors communications in China.

Information is relayed to the headquarters of the Brit-

ish Government's communications station in Cheltenham.

It was claimed in the film that security was often breached.

Former staff members have also alleged that Chinese intelligence infiltrated agents, ostensibly as domestic workers, and stole secret documents.

Last week the Government resisted demands in the House of Commons for an inquiry into the station after reports of corruption among officials there.

Mr Watt said he had been given "no guidance on the film at all."

"We have shown programmes that have been stopped in England before now," he said.

"I remember one of Andy

Warhol's films that was banned or delayed in London but shown here.

"I don't know what the programme contains but if it comes out here we'll look at it in the normal way and see if it contravenes our laws.

"We aren't really tied by British law in this instance. We'd look at it on its merits."

TVB Pearl is the channel normally showing *World in Action* programmes between 8 pm and 8.30 pm Saturday.

A spokesman said individual items are usually scheduled two to three weeks in advance, but so far no formal communication on the matter had been received.

But, the spokesman added, it was unlikely that, since the film had been banned in Britain, it would be shown here.