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From The Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP

12 June 1986

De Peter

exp 12/6.

EC INTEGRATED OPERATIONS

The United Kingdom's line on the European Commission's outline proposals on Integrated Operations has recently been the subject of correspondence between us. I have also seen Lynda Chalker's letter of 2 June in which she comments that there may be some duplicated effort if Integrated Operations proposals come forward for Industrial South Wales and Strathclyde given those areas' potential involvement in other EC programmes.

In my view, this is not a possibility so far as Wales is concerned. Apart from the pilot document on IO in Industrial South Wales, the only other relevant EC programme which we have submitted for consideration covers Mid Glamorgan which is just one constituent part of Industrial South Wales. Since it has been put together under new provisions provided by the European Regional Development Fund (which as yet constitutes the only basis for programming) it also relates solely to that Fund and therefore excludes a variety of other sources of EC aid (such as European Coal and Steel Community support) which are of particular relevance to the wider South Wales area.

Potential duplication is not, therefore, something which needs to be regarded as relevant to the current situation; nor indeed to any difficult decisions we may yet need to reach on priorities. The more general agreement in Lynda Chalker's letter that we should continue to support all five steel areas until we have an objective and tenable basis to do otherwise is therefore welcome.

/ Copies of this go to members of OD(E) and E(A) as well as to Malcolm Rifkind, Peter Walker, David Young, Rhodes Boyson, Nicholas Ridley and Sir Robert Armstrong.

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The Hon Peter Morrison MP
Minister of State
Department of Trade and Industry

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BUDGET

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