



CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

nbpm
Emb
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SELLAFIELD

I have seen the correspondence on Patrick Jenkin's minute of 31 May. There are two points which particularly concern this Department, namely regional policy and support for tourism.

2 I understand Patrick Jenkin's reference to the fears which have been expressed about possible loss of Assisted Area status for Sellafield. These are not confined to Sellafield, and we can say no more about Sellafield than we can about any other Assisted Area, namely that we shall not have a clear picture of the likely shape of the new Assisted Area map until August when we shall have the final version of the TTWA map. When we have this, we can then make our decisions, taking into account special factors such as the problems of Sellafield - although these must clearly be subordinate to the main purpose of our regional industrial policy, namely the reduction of disparities in regional

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employment opportunities. .

3 My second concern is the effect of the current bad publicity surrounding Sellafield on tourism interests in West Cumbria. The adverse publicity is clearly damaging the tourism industry there, and I have been approached to provide compensation and funds for additional marketing of Cumbria to help attract visitors back. But compensation must be a matter for BNFL, and I do not believe that additional advertising would prove productive in the present circumstances. I am considering, however, with the English Tourist Board whether the support available for tourism development projects in the area might helpfully be highlighted.

4 I am copying this minute to members of the Cabinet, to the Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

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23 July 1984

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