

010
Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-233 8545 (Llinell Union)

ODDI WRTH YSGRIFENNYDD
PREIFAT YSGRIFENNYDD
GWLADOL CYMRU



NRPM
DHS
28/8

File

CNO

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 8545 (Direct Line)

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR WALES

27th August 1985

Dear Len,

My Secretary of State has received an invitation from the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy to give evidence on the situation in South Wales, as part of an examination by the Committee of 4 Community Steel regions. This follows a general hearing on the European Steel Industry held on 24 April. The Committee's intention is to examine specific problems of regions particularly hard hit by what the invitation describes as the 'steel crisis'. He understands that invitations have also gone to the Minister-President of the Saarland, the Prefect of the Department of Lorraine and the Regional Authority of Wallonia. In addition invitations have gone to the trade unions and the steel companies in the 4 areas. The dates proposed for the hearing are 18/19 September.

I think there is general agreement that we should not decline to contribute to the Committee's work. The Secretary of State, however, already has unavoidable commitments in September at the time of the suggested Committee session in Brussels. The possibility remains of arranging for officials to represent the Secretary of State at the hearing, but subject to the agreement of his colleagues and to an alternative date being found convenient to both sides, he would prefer to give evidence himself.

I am accordingly writing to seek early agreement to our asking UKRep to investigate the possibilities with the Committee.

Copies go to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry, Employment, Environment, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Lord Privy Seal and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely

PAUL SKELLON

The Private Secretary to the Secretary of State
for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AL