

n.b.p.m.

BAP

14/11

c/s

*Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster*

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*For Peter**14/11*

WORKING GROUP ON RUNWAY CAPACITY TO SERVE THE SOUTH EAST

I have seen your letter of 7 November to Cecil Parkinson on this subject and have been following colleagues' correspondence with interest. You will appreciate that my constituency goes down to Gatwick and has within it the village of Charlwood - the most favoured site for a second runway. I have to say with regard to your comments of leaving open the option of a second runway at Gatwick that the locals believe very clearly that there is no possibility whatsoever of this happening. The acute environmental problems of this option are well known and I should be most reluctant to see it being aired once more.

In our 1985 White Paper we expressed the view that a second runway should not be built at Gatwick, and in his statement of 17 July Cecil Parkinson stated that the considerations, which led to that view, remain compelling. Re-opening this option now would undoubtedly cause widespread alarm and leave us open to strong criticism. You will also be aware that West Sussex Council in giving its approval to a second terminal at Gatwick said that it would not agree to any proposal for the expansion of the Airport until the year 2019. There is a general assumption that this undertaking would be honoured.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Cabinet colleagues, Tim Renton, Bertie Denham and Sir Robin Butler.

KENNETH BAKER

AEROSPACE: Policy Pt 6

