

Dee Bu



CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

INNER CITIES

at flap

I have seen copies of Malcolm Rifkind's minute of 26 January to you and of your Private Secretary's response of 2 February. There are of course certain similarities between the problems of the South Wales Valleys and those of the English inner cities as I sought to bring out in the memorandum I circulated to colleagues last year (E(UP) (87/4)). But the problems and the opportunities are by no means precisely the same. And our handling of the issues is very different - which is why, I imagine, that work on the White Paper has hitherto been undertaken on an England-only basis with virtually no involvement on my part or that of my Department.

I am now working up a Programme of Action for the South Wales Valleys. I am also reviewing the workings of the Urban Programme in Wales with the aim of targetting available resources still more accurately on the most deprived communities (not all in the Valleys) and on projects which will help mobilise private sector funds. I need however to consult a number of bodies and individuals on these issues and will not be in a position to announce any of my conclusions in early March. To include in an almost wholly 'English' White Paper a section noting that there are urban problems in Wales without at that stage being able to present properly worked-up proposals is to risk going off at half-cock. It is my clear view that the urban scene in Wales should not feature in the White Paper.

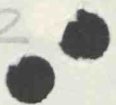
/ I am sending a copy of this minute to members of E(UP) and to Sir Robin Butler.

P W

5 February 1988

REGIONAL POLICY;

Innovation #12



DATE: _____

TIME: _____

BY: _____

I have been thinking about the regional policy and how it affects the local economy. It is a complex issue that requires a lot of research and analysis. I am currently working on a project that will explore the impact of regional policy on the local economy. I am also looking for ways to improve the regional policy and make it more effective. I am interested in hearing from other people who are also interested in this topic. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let me know. I would be happy to discuss them with you.

CONFIDENTIAL

I am not a king or a queen, but I am a citizen of this great country. I am proud to be a part of this nation and to contribute to its progress. I am also proud to be a member of the regional policy committee. I am committed to finding solutions to the problems facing our region and to making a positive impact on the lives of our people. I am also committed to working with other members of the committee to develop a regional policy that is fair, equitable, and effective. I am looking forward to the day when we can all work together to build a better future for our region.

