

6 March 2002 - Minister for Economic Development's oral update

In addition to my Written Report, I also raised the following items:

US Steel Tariffs

I have written to Pat Hewitt at DTI and a copy of the letter has been circulated to Members. The Welsh Assembly Government is in support of the UK Government and EC representations. I am to meet the unions shortly to discuss this and hope to arrange meetings with companies affected. I have asked officials to consider the possible impact on companies in Wales of this decision by the US Government.

Relocation of Army to St Athan

I very much welcome the MoD decision to post the 1st Battalion of the Welsh Guards to St Athan. The First Minister has also issued a statement welcoming this move. In addition, I was delighted that a Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared by the MoD and the WDA setting out the scope of the future development of the site. I met the Chief Executive of the WDA this morning to discuss how this might be taken forward.

Tourism Summit

The Deputy Economic Development Minister yesterday attended a tourism summit at the Department of Culture Media and Sport. Tessa Jowell is now shortly to arrange a meeting for UK tourism ministers, including those from the devolved administrations.