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EMBARGO: Not for use by media or on agency or club tapes before 15.00 hours, Thursday, July 20, 1978.

EEC FINANCE FOR FORD AND BRITISH STEEL EMPLOYEES

Help for adaptation following plant closures

The European Commission has announced that grants would be made under article 56 of the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty to help workers affected by plant closures.

Ford Motor Company is to receive aid of £328,000 for 457 workers whose work in the Dagenham blast furnace and coke ovens is disappearing because of technological change. The scheme is to be carried out over the years 1978-80 at a total cost of £780,000.

British Steel Corporation is allocated £1,428,825 to help the adaptation of 2,382 workers who are losing their present jobs at the Hartlepool, Shotton and East Moors works of BSC. The total cost of the operation is £3,163,610, over the years 1977-79.

Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty provides financial help in the coal and steel industries for tideover allowances, resettlement allowances and vocational retraining costs in the event of technological change or fundamental market changes.