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Sir Robert Armstrong

National Union of Mineworkers: National  
Miners Left Club

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A01808 of 27 March about the activities of the National Miners Left Club, and she agrees that we should await a more suitable moment to make use of the information contained in IAG(80)10.

C. A. WHITMORE

31 March, 1980.

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MR. WHITMORE

National Union of Mineworkers: National Miners Left Club

In your minute of 17<sup>th</sup> March, you reported that the Prime Minister had seen IAG(80) 10 on the activities of the National Miners Left Club and had asked whether some publicity of this might be arranged.

2. I have consulted Mr. Deverell about this. We agree that this is a subject about which publicity could be helpful, and he has been examining the activities of the National Miners Left Club in the hope of finding a way of doing this without endangering sources. I am afraid, however, that the material which he has immediately available and for which there is overt collateral would not be likely to cause Communist Party activists within the National Miners Left Club much embarrassment.

3. We think that it might be best if we held back for the time being. Once the resolutions for the 1980 NUM Annual Conference are published, it is likely that the problems of source protection will be eased, and more may become known about the sub-committee set up to plan and monitor Mr. Scargill's campaign for the NUM Presidency. With the coalmining scene relatively quiet at the moment, it would make sense to keep our powder dry, and our sources of information open, until a time when they could prove particularly useful.

REA

(Robert Armstrong)

27th March 1980

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