



With the Compliments
of the
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
SW1H 9AT

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

NBPV

Coal file

AT 14(1)



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

11 May 1984

Dear Michael,

We spoke on the telephone about Home Office attendance at your Secretary of State's daily meetings on the miners' dispute.

I understand that it was agreed at the beginning of the dispute that officials of the Departments concerned should attend these daily meetings, but the length of the dispute means that they are putting a severe strain on our limited resources and the Home Secretary believes that there is now a case for changing the present arrangements. The position is that the Under-Secretary concerned (David Hilary) was in the Cabinet Office Briefing Room for the period after the shooting outside the Libyan People's Bureau, and is now heavily involved in the aftermath of that incident and in other urgent matters. The Assistant Secretary (Roy Harrington) is almost permanently engaged on meetings on terrorism and on other security matters. The Principal (Peter Honour) is the only one in the Home Office who deals with public order, and among other things is having to do virtually all the Home Office work on the miners' dispute.

We therefore wonder if, instead of sending an official to your Secretary of State's meetings, we could send you the daily report prepared by the police National Reporting Centre at Scotland Yard. This is usually produced by about 9.15 am, and could be sent 'by hand' to your office. The report in fact contains all the information which David Hilary and Peter Honour have when they go to the meetings. They would of course be glad to supplement this report by answering on the telephone any questions you may have (Peter Honour 213 6249, David Hilary 213 7217). And needless to say, we would arrange for an official to attend any particular meetings at which your Secretary of State thought their attendance was desirable.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Andrew Turnbull at No 10.

I am sincerely,
Nigel Pantling

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Michael Reidy, Esq