

CONFIDENTIAL



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ
01 211 6402

Andrew Turnbull Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

1 June 1984

Dear Andrew

COAL DISPUTE

My Secretary of State has been told by the Home Office representative at his daily coal meeting that the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire has expressed the view that civil proceedings against picketing would not directly produce any difference in the situation on the ground which the police have to cope with. The Chief Constable has not picked up any strong support among his men for the Police Federation's call for the use of the civil law.

The general feeling among Chief Constables who have been meeting for a conference this week is that civil proceedings would not solve any of the police problems. The Chief Constables are certainly not asking for such proceedings to be taken. Before expressing a firm view they would need to know in detail what was involved and what the results of such proceedings were likely to be. But at this stage their feeling is that civil proceedings could make things worse, and that the police will just have to stick things out.

My Secretary of State has asked that these views should be reported to the Prime Minister and other members of MISC 101.

Copies go to the Private Secretaries concerned.

*Yours sincerely
M. F. Reidy*

M F REIDY
Private Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

NAT IND
Coal Part 9



21 JUN 1953
NEW YORK

