

S E C R E T

File

8a

PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Walker has reported on the NCB/NUM talks in the following terms.

Mr. McGregor led for the NCB and his assessment was that he was faced with remarkably desperate men who were under great pressure and who, under no circumstances, wanted the talks to break off. McGregor felt that they had begun to move towards a satisfactory discussion of the issues. He was sufficiently encouraged to judge that the best tactic was to agree to another meeting on Wednesday.

The NUM will return having done further work on how uneconomic pits will be defined. Meeting will also consider one or two special issues relating to pits in the Scottish Lowlands.

Mr. Walker assured me that NCB had made no concessions beyond their existing statement that closures currently planned may take until April or May next year to go through the procedures.

From 7.45 p.m. Mr. Walker will be at his Droitwich number if you wish to speak to him.

ANDREW TURNBULL

8 June 1984

S E C R E T