

file

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

18 July 1984

Andrew Turnbull Esq
10 Downing Street

Dear Andrew,

- .. I attach a press release the Chancellor has in mind to make for a speech he is giving to the Selsdon Group this evening.

This has already been cleared with Bernard Ingham at No 10 who is content with the general line. Obviously something will depend on how the NUM/NCB talks go today. But you and Michael Reidy (Department of Energy), to whom I am also sending a copy, will want to see it in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret O'Han

for D L C PERETZ
Principal Private Secretary

Let us be clear about Mr Scargill's strike. The strike in the mines has been organised in defiance of the miners' democratic rights. They have been refused a national ballot. Almost everywhere a local ballot has been held, the men are continuing to work.

The strike is sustained through brutality by pickets on the picket lines, and by their reign of terror in the pit villages involving physical violence and the intimidation of women and children.

The strike is being led by a man avowedly committed to so-called class warfare. A man who has openly boasted that industrial action can bring down democratically-elected governments, and grind social and economic life to a total standstill. A man who refuses even to acknowledge - let alone condemn - the violence perpetrated by his pickets.

Last weekend this man was shaken warmly by the hand by the present leader of the Labour Party, Mr Kinnock. The pictures of the two comrades grinning happily together will be etched indelibly in the nation's mind.

It will never be forgotten by the sixty thousand miners still at work. It will never be forgotten by the countless thousands of miners who want to go to work, but fear for their homes and for their families. It will never be forgotten either by the vast majority in this country who detest the militants and the thugs, and who care for the future of our democracy.

At the beginning of this strike we accused the Labour Party of hypocrisy, because Labour Governments since 1964 presided over the closure of 313 pits, putting 229,000 miners out of work with not much more than their bus fares home. Nowadays volunteers for redundancy in the coal industry receive far and away the most generous redundancy payments of any available in British industry today.

But today I accuse Mr Kinnock of something much worse. He has within his party men who talk of democracy when it suits them but believe in something else entirely, and who have nothing but contempt for the law. He has conspicuously failed to rid himself of such people. Now he has chosen to associate himself unreservedly with those outside Parliament who believe in the

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destruction of democratic governments by violence and intimidation. And this is a man who aspires to become Prime Minister.

This Government will defend democracy, and we shall succeed in preserving it. First, because the vast majority of the British people are wedded to freedom and will support us in defending it. Second, because we are determined ourselves to do so, at any cost. The value of democracy with freedom and justice is not counted in pounds and pence.