

FILE cc: MISC 101



LP DTI  
 HO EMP  
 HMT Trans  
 Energy CO + LPS, Chief Whip  
 MOD  
 SO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 September, 1984.

*Dear Mr. Kinoshita,*

Thank you for your letter of 3 September with which you enclosed a resolution of the Parliamentary Committee of the Labour Party seeking a recall of Parliament to discuss the industrial situation.

You will recall that we debated the industrial situation on 31 July, the day before the House rose. During that debate, I pointed out that over many years pits which are not totally exhausted have been closed when it is no longer economic to mine them: the Labour Government not only acted on this principle but also embodied it in legislation. The Opposition claimed that the dispute was about procedure for pit closures rather than about the principle. On the following day, the Chairman of the NCB issued a statement, a copy of which I enclose, making it clear that this procedure remained unchanged from the period of the Labour Government.

Since the debate, the point at issue has not changed. Nor has the NCB offer to the miners. The ballot of members of the NUM which you yourself urged on 12 April has not occurred. Violence and intimidation by some union members against their colleagues continue in an effort to prevent them from working: nevertheless those who wish to go to their place of work are able, thanks to the police, to do so.

The dispute could be quickly settled if the NUM were prepared to discuss with the NCB ways of achieving a

prosperous and efficient industry on the basis of principles and procedures which were accepted in the Report on the Plan for Coal which was agreed by the last Labour Government, the NCB and NUM, and which have been operated in the industry under successive governments.

The Government do not see that any useful purpose would be served by a recall of Parliament at the present time.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

---

The Rt. Hon. Neil Kinnock M.P.