



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

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Andrew Turnbull Esq  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister  
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// September 1984

*Dear Andrew*

Thank you for your letter of 3 September concerning a request from the Miners Wives Back to Work Campaign for a meeting with the Prime Minister.

This is the first we have heard of this particular group based in Wales, although there was some publicity a few weeks ago for a similar group in Kent. They have made no contact with either the South Wales NCB or the Welsh Office. However we have established, by talking to Mrs Fjaelberg, that hers is part of a nationwide network of similar groups. This one was founded 8 weeks ago with a view to encouraging the men to go back to work in spite of the intimidation and violence likely to be faced by wives and families. They intend to act as a mutual support group of wives, giving help to those who are cracking up under the strain and exchanging practical ideas on how to face shared problems. For your information Mrs Fjaelberg was optimistic that returns to work would begin in S Yorkshire in the next couple of weeks and in S Wales by end-September.

Their wish in seeking a meeting with the Prime Minister is to put their problems to her and to ask her advice on how best to deal with them. They include response to threatening letters and telephone calls etc - we have already suggested that written material be supplied to the police.

*You will be disingenuous this*

The Group clearly shares the Government's wish to see a movement back to work, and we would not therefore want to 'cold shoulder' them. I suggest that in replying you might say that the Prime Minister welcomes the formation of groups of this kind; she regrets [depending on her diary] that she herself will not be able to meet them in the next couple of weeks; she suggests that they seek a meeting either with Welsh Office Ministers if their concerns are specifically local or Ministers at the Department of Energy, specifying exactly what they wish to discuss. They should also be encouraged to make contact with their local NCB officials.

*Yours*

*John*

J S NEILSON  
Private Secretary