

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

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We will, no doubt, hear many  
predictions of this kind.  
cc Mr Vereker

Mus 15/1

MR SCHOLAR

I have spoken to my NCB contact whose information should be protected.

As a long standing expert, who is comparing previous votes with those known to have been cast this time, he does not believe that the NUM is capable of getting a 55% majority, on the basis of information he has at present.

Durham, now more militant, will split 50-50;

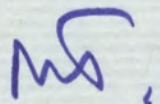
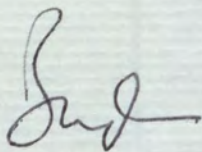
A major pit in Derbyshire (widely regarded as the touchstone coal field) has voted 52% to accept;

COHSE branches report 100% acceptance;

Leicestershire is expected to vote for acceptance nearer 80 than 70% (compared with 80% last time);

Notts expected to vote for acceptance by at least 60% (though 77% last time).

I shall be kept informed.



B. INGHAM

15 January 1982

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