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✓ CJV
Prime Minister (2)

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CONFIDENTIAL

John Kerr Esq
Private Secretary to the
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Treasury Chambers
Parliament Street
London
SW1

MF
25 February 1983

Dear John,

NCB : SOUTH WALES STRIKE

As you will know, the South Wales NUM have voted in favour of a strike in the coal-field from Monday morning in protest against the closure of Tymawr/Lewis Merthyr pit. After a re-count the vote was 55.41% in favour of a strike and 44.59% against.

The NCB's assessment is that there will be very wide support for a strike across the coal-field, although it is possible that there will be some limited opposition.

The South Wales NUM Area are likely to send representatives to other coal-fields to seek support. The Board's initial assessment is that Arthur Scargill is unlikely to favour a national strike on this closure.

I will report further as the position develops.

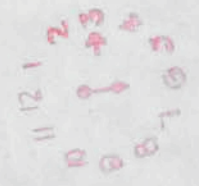
I am copying this letter to Michael Scholar, Tony Rawsthorne, Muir Russell, Adam Peat, Jonathan Spencer, Barnaby Shaw, Richard Hatfield and Gerry Spence.

Yours ever,

J D WEST
Private Secretary

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