



Prime Minister

(2) → JV  
Now settled

MUS 2/3

ms

PRIME MINISTER

SOUTH WALES MINEWORKERS' STRIKE

As you know, the NUM Area Executives in Yorkshire, Scotland and Kent have recommended their members to join the strike against the closure of Tymawr/Lewis Merthyr from Sunday. At the same time ballots or other forms of consultations are planned in several other NUM areas for the end of this week or early next week. In most cases, the Area NUM leadership are recommending a vote for a strike.

The Deputy Chairman of the NCB, James Cowan, has today given me his assessment of the position. He believes that the workforce is not yet ready for a strike. Even in Yorkshire, it is not yet clear that men from all parts of the coalfield will respond. Meanwhile the Board are taking the line that Tymawr is a hopeless case, that they have no intention of backing down, and that if the situation develops into a national strike it will be a long one.

The next few days, while ballots are taking place and grass-roots opinion is crystallising, will be crucial. It will suit the militants to be able to represent the issue as a struggle against a Government-inspired plan for pit closures. The right tactic for us is to keep as low a profile as possible and avoid substantive comment that goes beyond what the NCB have already said. I will, though, take an early opportunity of getting over the point that the Government has no intention of intervening, in order to strengthen the NCB's message that a strike would last a long time.

I am copying this minute to the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Employment, Sir Robert Armstrong and Mr Sparrow.

ms

Secretary of State for Energy

18 March 1983

Nat. Ind.

Coal Pt 7



CONFIDENTIAL

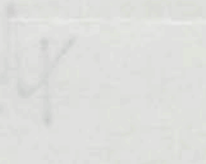
CONFIDENTIAL

The Board, composed of representatives of industry, labor, and government, has been organized to study and report on the various aspects of the coal industry. It is the policy of the Board to conduct its work in a confidential manner, and to report its findings to the President and the Congress.

The Board is currently conducting a study of the coal industry, and is expected to report its findings to the President and the Congress in the near future. It is the policy of the Board to conduct its work in a confidential manner, and to report its findings to the President and the Congress.

The Board is currently conducting a study of the coal industry, and is expected to report its findings to the President and the Congress in the near future. It is the policy of the Board to conduct its work in a confidential manner, and to report its findings to the President and the Congress.

The Board is currently conducting a study of the coal industry, and is expected to report its findings to the President and the Congress in the near future. It is the policy of the Board to conduct its work in a confidential manner, and to report its findings to the President and the Congress.



CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



FILE

SW

## 10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

1 March, 1983

South Wales Miners' Strike

I attach a note which I prepared as briefing for the Prime Minister for Question Time today. It is based largely on figures which Mr. John Moore used in the House yesterday. The other figures were obtained from your Department by the Parliamentary Section here. In short, all the figures that it contains came from your Department. When I showed this to the Prime Minister, she expressed a particular interest in using the figures in paragraphs 2, 6, 7 and 9, and we checked these again with your Department. The Prime Minister subsequently used most of these figures in the House. I should be grateful if you could check them once again to ensure that they are correct.

W. F. S. RICKETT

J. D. West, Esq.,  
Department of Energy

SW