

Russian journalist coy about Scargill 'class war interview'

By Richard Dowden

The Russian journalist whose purported interview with Mr Arthur Scargill was disowned by the miners' president would not confirm yesterday that he had directly interviewed Mr Scargill.

Mr Vissarion Sisnyov, the London correspondent of *Trud* (Labour), the Moscow trade union paper, said at his flat in Maida Vale, London yesterday that he could say nothing until he had spoken to his editor.

"But I want to put the record straight in one respect", he said. "In the publication *Trud* nothing is said about class war - it only mentions class interests".

Although the words "class war" do not appear in the text of the article, the headlines on page two of Tuesday's *Trud* reads: "The miners will not give up" and "At the front of the class struggle".

Reports of the article came back to London from Western correspondents in Moscow who wrote that Arthur Scargill had stated that the pit strike had unleashed a class war against the British ruling class.

The National Union of Mineworkers said on Tuesday that the reports were untrue and that the alleged interview never took place, although "the journal informed Mr Scargill

Trud: "The workers see and know that businessmen, stockbrokers, and the big press proprietors easily spend more on a bottle of wine than an old age pensioner gets to live on for a week. Figuratively speaking, this is the barrel of social gunpowder which has been exploded by miners' anger."

that it would be reproducing extracts from an article written by him for a British paper".

Most of the *Trud* interview bears a striking resemblance to an article written by Mr Scargill for the *Morning Star*, which appeared on March 29.

Yesterday Mr Sisnyov, a senior journalist of more than 30 years' experience, would not discuss how he had obtained the purported interview, but when asked about the similarities with the *Morning Star* article he said: "Scargill says exactly about class interest, oppression and everything else on the back page of the *Morning Star*. Everything is there."

A senior editor of *Trud* said in Moscow yesterday that he had been trying to reach Mr Sisnyov by telephone all day without success. Asked why his London correspondent had filed an interview which Mr Scargill said had never taken place, the

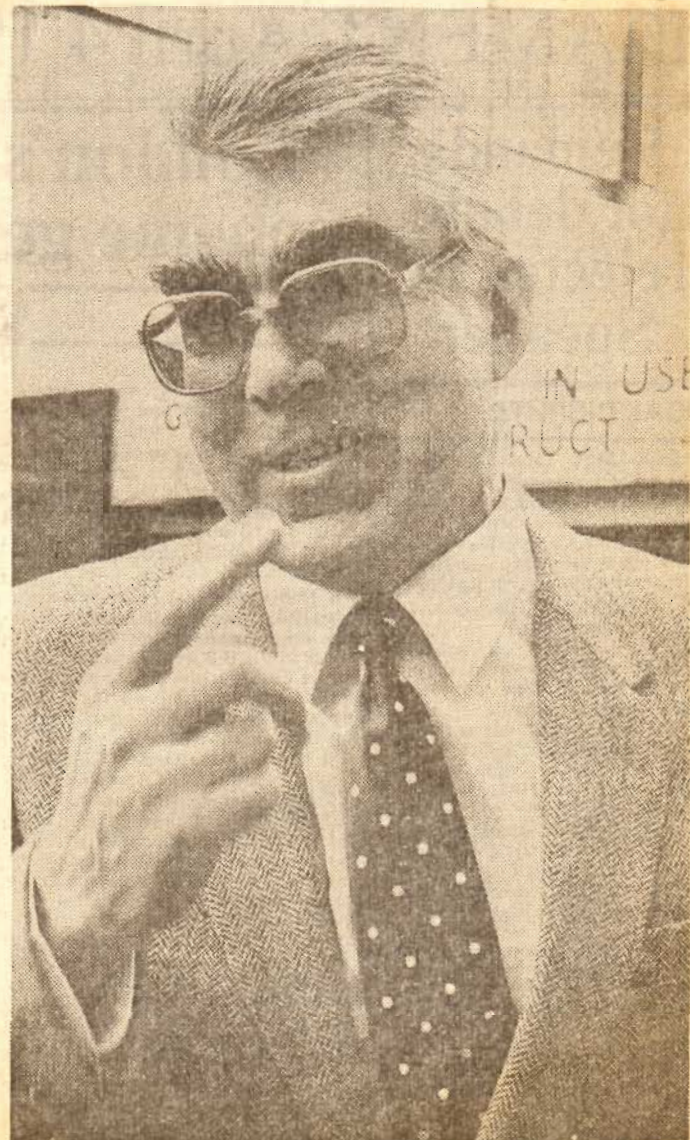
Morning Star: "At a basic level they see businessmen, stockbrokers, Fleet Street editors, and other worthies of society spend more on a bottle of wine than a pensioner has to survive on for a week. In essence that's the social powder keg in which the present miners' industrial explosion has taken place."

Trud editor replied: "That is what we would like to know as well".

Tuesday's article said: "Arthur Scargill, President of the NUM, answers questions by the London Correspondent of *Trud*, V. Sisnyov". There are four questions and answers. Mr Sisnyov confirmed that he had produced his report in the form of an interview and said that while the paper could edit it, "the main things, the political formulations" would not be changed.

Mr Sisnyov disappeared yesterday morning from his London flat in Maida Vale, which also serves as an office.

But at lunchtime he drove up to the back door of the block of flats. When stopped by journalists he said: "I hope you won't be offended but I cannot say anything. In other circumstances I would invite you in for a drink as fellow journalists."



Saying little: Mr Sisnyov outside his London flat yesterday (Photograph: John Manning)