

10 DOWNING STREET

1 October 1984

Dear Mr Ginst,

Thank you for your letter of the 26 July which followed our meeting the previous Sunday at Mr and Mrs Sussman's house. I am sorry you have not had an earlier reply.

Taking the points you make in turn:-

The Government cannot control the media coverage of the dispute because the broadcasting companies are independent and they decide on the coverage they give to Mr Scargill. I hope that recent speeches, articles and television and radio broadcasts have put our message across; in particular we have stressed the Government's determination to do everything it can to support the police in defending the miners who wish to return to work against criminal intimidation.

Over 5,800 people have been arrested so far in the dispute. Remedies in civil law are of course also available, but it must be for the industries and companies affected to decide whether recourse to those remedies would be useful at any particular time. As you know, the civil law has been invoked not only by some private companies but also by working miners against the N.U.M.

The treatment of intimidatory pickets is for the judgement of the local police authority in whose area the violence is taking place. I am sure you will applaud the police for the magnificent job they have done so far in combatting the violence directed towards them and the working miners, and in enabling the latter to continue working. And I am sure you will appreciate that to secure a conviction evidence beyond reasonable doubt has to be adduced by the

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prosecution. This is not easy to obtain although more people are now coming forward and contacting the police.

Those arrested have not simply been released. Over 1,000 cases have been heard and some have received prison sentences. The longest sentence to date is 9 months. So far all the cases have been in the Magistrates court.

Some stipendiary magistrates are already hearing cases and two or three more will start this month.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Indaba

R B Giusti Esq

Nigel

Here is the letter  
re: the miners' strike  
mentioned yesterday,  
and which has now been  
signed.

JG

4.10.84