

# CONFIDENTIAL

GR 240  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FROM MOSCOW 251435Z OCTOBER  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1222 OF 25 OCTOBER  
INFO SAVING WARSAW

YOUR TELNO 906 : COAL INDUSTRY.

1. WE HAVE NO DETAILS OF RECENT OR PLANNED PWT CLOSURES IN THE SOVIET UNION AND DISCREET ENQUIRIES WITH OTHER EMBASSIES HAVE NOT PRODUCED ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION.
2. YEFIMOV, A DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR OF IZVESTIYA, TOLD MINISTER ON 1 OCTOBER THAT THE SOVIET UNION FOLLOWS THE SAME POLICY AS THE UK : WHEN A PWT IS NO LONGER VIABLE, THE MINERS CONCERNED ARE GIVEN MATERIAL INCENTIVES TO MOVE TO ALTERNATIVE AREAS. THE MOVE IS PREPARED 'SEVERAL YEARS' IN ADVANCE THROUGH DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT AND UNION. THOUGH YEFIMOV WAS NOT SPECIFIC, HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT A PWT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE COMPLETELY WORKED OUT BEFORE IT IS CLOSED.
3. THIS IS NOT 'PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION' AND COULD NOT BE USED DIRECTLY, ON AN ATTRIBUTABLE BASIS. BUT WE WOULD SEE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR SAYING, IF IT WERE THAT USEFUL, THAT WE BELIEVE THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES FOLLOW BROADLY THE SAME POLICIES OF CLOSING UNVIABLE MINES AND GIVING THE MINERS CONCERNED MATERIAL INCENTIVES TO MOVE TO ALTERNATIVE AREAS.
4. A FURTHER POSSIBLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION WHICH YOU MAY LIKE TO PURSUE IS THE BRITISH ELEMENT IN THE UK/USSR WORKING GROUP ON THE COAL INDUSTRY, OF WHICH THE BRITISH CO-CHAIRMAN IS MR PETER TREGELLES, DIRECTOR OF THE NCB MINING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT (MRDE).

SUTHERLAND

MINIMAL  
ESSD  
SOV. D  
EED  
TRED  
RESEARCH D.

COPIES TO:  
PS/S OFS D/ENERGY  
MR FITZGERALD, COAL DIV D/ENERG  
MR TURNBULL, NO 10 D. ST.

# CONFIDENTIAL