NATIONAL COAL BOARD TELEPHONE HOBART HOUSE 01-235 2020 GROSVENOR PLACE TELEX 882161 HOB LONDON SWIX 7AE 25th October 1984 The Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London, SW1. Dear Porme Minister, Thank you for your letter of 23rd October. All of us are greatly cheered by your personal interest. We are determined to keep coal despatches high, despite clearance of our big stocks in Nottingham - we are aiming, in present circumstances, at an average of at least 850,000 tonnes a week between now and Christmas. To achieve this, I and my Regional Marketing Directors depend totally on the skill and application of our middle management and despatch staff to get around the endless obstacles which obstruct performance in a dispute as long and as extensive as this. One of the few good things about the dispute is that by putting them to the test, it has demonstrated how thoroughly our staff know their job and that only a little encouragement is needed for them to achieve amazing things. They will have to continue to excel after the strike when we plan the biggest sustained stocklift in the history of the industry. Our objective in all this is to ensure the future market for our product. It cannot be beyond our ingenuity to make a success of the British coal business. Juis succeedy, Maleste Esterned. copy to Mr. Peter Walker

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