



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 October 1984

Dear Mrs. Hopkins,

Your letter of 22 October is so vivid, and so moving in its description of all that you and your family have had to endure, that I hardly know how to reply. It is simply appalling that you, your husband and your children, should have to suffer so much, for refusing to give in to those who have flouted the constitution of their own union and turned violence against their own workmates.

I promise you that I shall never forget the working miners: nor will anyone else in this country who values freedom and democracy. Following the successful conclusion of the negotiations between the Coal Board and the Pit Deputies, our hope is that the leadership of the NUM will now follow this example and talk sensibly with the Board about an early return to work. Meanwhile, I shall continue to take every opportunity to underline the Government's firm support for those who are at work, our determination to maintain the rule of law, and our willingness to provide the police with all the help they need to protect individuals from violence and intimidation.

/I am afraid

VSC

I am afraid that I should find it very difficult to fit a meeting into the heavy programme which faces me over the next few weeks. But please do not hesitate to write to me again if there is anything specific that you think the Government could do to help.

Thank you so much for writing.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

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Mrs. Anne Hopkins