

CONFIDENTIAL



HOUSE OF LORDS,  
SW1A 0PW

18 December, 1984

Prime Minister

My dear Leon:

Miners' Cases

19/12

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 12th December to Michael Havers. I too welcome the action reported in the Solicitor General's minute of 30th November to the Prime Minister.

I quite agree that the Crown can properly press for expedited trials in proper cases, but the best way to achieve this is surely for individual applications to be made in accordance with the Solicitor General's minute. The listing of cases is ultimately a judicial function. It is a difficult task which in the cases we have in mind will involve balancing the principle you mention with the need for expedition in other cases of, for example, murder and rape. For this reason a general exhortation is unlikely to have any substantial practical effect beyond that of individual applications in proper cases.

In addition to its practical limitations, an announcement such as you suggest would be open to criticism on the grounds that it is inappropriate or even unconstitutional for the Government to seek in this way to influence the judges. This would elevate to the constitutional plane the allegation that the criminal justice system is being manipulated in order to break the strike.

For the reasons I have mentioned my view is that it would be better to do without the statement suggested in your letter.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and the Attorney General.

Yrs:

The Right Honourable  
Leon Brittan, Q.C., M.P.,  
Secretary of State for  
the Home Department.

You must have observed the misrepresentations to wh: Michael was subjected when he did the only possible thing over the sequestrators' expenses. This is very sensitive territory. Verbum sapienti sufficit

NAT. IND. : COAL : PMS



19 DEC 1984



01-405 7641 Extn

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE  
LONDON, WC2A 2LL

18 December 1984

The Rt. Hon. Leon Brittan, QC, MP,  
Secretary of State for the Home Department,  
Queen Anne's Gate,  
LONDON, SW1H 9AT.

N  
19/12

Dear Leon,

Thank you for your letter of 12th December concerning trials of intimidation cases. I am considering the matter and will let you have a reply shortly.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor.

Yours etc.  
Michael

NVA IND = CORR = PE 15

11 12 1  
10 11 10  
9 10 9  
8 9 8  
7 8 7  
6 7 6  
5 6 5  
4 5 4  
3 4 3  
2 3 2

19 DEC 1984