

PRIME MINISTER

Tom King's Office rang No.10 late last night to say that following the breakdown of the talks about talks, the NUM sought a meeting with ACAS, the purpose of which was to discuss the immediate setting up of a Committee of Inquiry. A meeting has been fixed to take place at 1000 hours this morning (Saturday) in London.

ACAS will simply take delivery of any message that the NUM have and relay it to the NCB. ACAS will have nothing to do with the setting up of a Committee of Inquiry, despite what news reports might say this morning.

Debbie

16 February 1985

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EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT IN THE TIMES OF SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY

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Mr. Willis took back to the Board a four point response which said:

"It is of crucial importance that the parties concerned in the current dispute to concentrate attention on the future success of the industry and in so doing to commit themselves to reconciliation and restoration of relationships.

The NUM recognise it is the Board's duty to secure the efficient development of the coal industry, and the NCB recognise it is the NUM's duty to protect and advance the interests of its members and their employment opportunities.

The Board and the unions will jointly discuss the Plan for Coal and proposed revision. It is agreed that these discussions will seek to identify the basis for jointly establishing a developing and expanding coal industry equipped to meet future energy requirements.

The Coal Board and the Union agree that the future of any colliery/unit will be discussed within the established recently modified Colliery Review Procedure.

It is accepted that both the Board and the Union shall submit such arguments as they deem appropriate in accordance with established procedures. The parties agree that there will be urgent talks about the constitution, membership and the role of the 'independent reference body' which is to be incorporated into the Procedure."

Mr Powell

DAVID HART

1. I have told DH to phone only me over the wire; and only if he is really concerned about developments in the coal talks.

2. If I need to report anything on to Chequer - and only if - I will phone you first.

3. However, despite his assurances, DH is quite likely to phone Chequer direct. You ought therefore to tell the Sub-Board that if you are clear, any call from DH should be put through to you first.

4. Quite separately, I would like to put it past the NM to seize upon the PM's absence from the UK and on Wed / Th. next week, make some real movement - when the PM can handle extensive budget control or, if there is a settlement, Crow on TV.