

RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

cc CO
CSHMT
DOT
MAFF
DM
LPO
DOI
HMT
FCO
HO

MFJ

From the Private Secretary

30 July 1979

Dear John

We spoke on Friday about your Secretary of State's further minute of 23 July covering a revised draft statement for the Department to submit to the Belvoir Inquiry.

I told you that the Prime Minister felt that the statement would be more complete if it included some estimate of UK reserves of coal and some commentary on a distribution of these reserves. You pointed out that, while the Department could properly include an estimate of volume, the question of distribution and accessibility was essentially for the National Coal Board. You asked that the Department should not be pressed to trespass on this ground in its statement.

I raised this again with the Prime Minister, and she accepts that it would not be proper for the Department to cover the distribution and accessibility points. I would therefore be grateful if you could now arrange for the final draft of the statement to include some assessment of the volume of UK coal reserves.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E Committee and to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Mike Pattison

John Arnott Esq
Department of Energy

RESTRICTED

SEM