

RF Alan - See you?
Kay 22/2

Energy
vb

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Joe GORMLEY

15 February 1982

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr. Gormley, President of the NUM, urging an early positive decision on the development of the North East Leicestershire coal field.

I should be grateful if you could provide a suitable draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Mr. Gormley, to reach me by Monday 1 March, consulting other Departments as necessary.

I am copying this letter to Julian West (Department of Energy).

(SGD) W.F.S. RICKETT

Jeff Jacobs, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

JS

1.

PRIME MINISTER

I believe Mike may have mentioned to you the attached letter from Joe Gormley urging an early decision on Belvoir.

Content for me to commission a draft from Mr. Heseltine and Mr. Lawson?

WFSR

Yes
no

11 February 1982

CR/ for your file. No. 1

*WR
22/2*



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Joe Gormley writes a "Private and Confidential" letter, pressing for an early positive decision on the Vale of Belvoir plans.

Should we consult Mr. Lawson and Mr. Heseltine on a draft reply?

Yes

MP

Fowey

MB

1 February 1982

NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS

222 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, NW1 2BX

President J. GORMLEY, O.B.E.

Secretary L. DALY

Telephone 01-387 7631

Please quote our reference in reply:

Your Ref:

Our Ref: JG/RE

29th January 1982

Private and Confidential

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

Vale of Belvoir

The plans of the Coal Board to exploit the coal measures which are known to exist in the Vale of Belvoir was the subject of a public inquiry which was completed in May 1980 and was referred to the Secretary of State for the Environment for his consideration, and we keep hearing many rumours about the progress of this matter. I would have thought by now people would have realised that it was in the interest of continuity towards fulfilling the Plan for Coal which was accepted by all the political parties in Britain that the National Coal Board's plans to extract the coal in this area would have been acceptable, and as President of the NUM I am a little alarmed at the seeming reluctance to accept what I know is the feeling of many experts that this area of coal ought to be exploited.

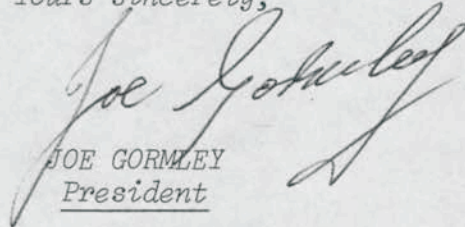
Time is running short for the men employed in the Leicestershire area and who, along with their South Nottinghamshire people, would be the miners who would have to exploit these coal measures. These men have proved themselves over the years to be first class miners, and also have shown their moderation at all times. I think the recent Ballot vote has shown their desire to make the Coal Industry the best possible Coal Industry in the interests not only of their own Industry, but for Britain's sake as well.

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I would hope, therefore, Prime Minister that you would use your personal endeavour to get this matter clarified in a positive way in order that work could be started as soon as possible because you have to realise that a 'yes' decision made tomorrow would not be providing coal for the next eight or nine years and money for the project, of course, would have to be spread over the same nine or ten years, but it would be providing jobs of high importance for the future and could create, in my opinion, a great deal of goodwill.

Let us, therefore, hope that you will give this matter your deepest consideration and that we have an early reply.

Yours sincerely,


JOE GORMLEY
President

P.S. Please do not forget that I retire in two months' time.