10 DOWNING STREET 1 February, 1982. Dear Mr. Murray, Thank you for your letter of 4 January. I note what you say about the importance was attach to investment in modernisation s contributing to the development of an officient and competitive coal industry. on the particular question of Belvoir, however, I have nothing at present to add to what I said to you in my letter of Yours sincerely, (SGD) MT The Rt. Mon. Lionel Murray, O.B.E.

Energy Andrew Digno/JV Comments? SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY THAMES HOUSE SOUTH MILLBANK LONDON SWIP 4QJ Mus 15/1 01-211 6402 Michael Scholar Private Secretary to the Prime Minister 10 Downing Street 14 January 1982 London SW1 Dear Michael As requested in your letter of 8 January, I enclose a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Mr Len Murray. Yours ever Dail humley DAVID LUMLEY Private Secretary

DRAFT REPLY TO RT HON LIONEL MURRAY OBE

Thank you for your letter of 4 January.

I note what you say about the importance you attach to investment in modernisation as contributing to the development of an efficient and competitive coal industry. On the particular question of Belvoir, however, I have nothing at present to add to my letter of ...

12 October.



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 January, 1982

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I attach a letter from Mr. Len Murray about the Vale of Belvoir coalfield. We have acknowledged the letter.

I would be grateful if you would let me have a draft reply by Friday, 22 January.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Edmonds (Department of the Environment), Terry Matthews (Chief Secretary's Office, Treasury) and Gerry Spence (CPRS).

M. C. SCHOLAR

Dr. David Lumley, Department of Energy

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 January, 1982

I am writing on the Prime Minister's behalf to thank you for your letter of 4 January about the Vale of Belvoir coalfield, which I am placing before the Prime Minister. A reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

M. C. SCHOLAR

The Rt. Hon. Lionel Murray, O.B.E.

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Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP

Telegrams TRADUNIC LONDON WC1

Prime Minister

I mill let you have a

YOUR REFERENCE

draft reply.

OUR REFERENCE

MUS 8/1 LM/BC/DT/BJC

DEPARTMENT Economic

January 4 1982

PPD

Dear Prime Minister

Prime Minister 10 Downing Street

LONDON SW1

Vale of Belvoir Coalfield

The TUC Fuel and Power/Industries Committee have considered your letter of October 1/2 in reply to my letter of August 27 about the Vale of Belvoir Coalfield. They have asked me to let you know their concern about the delay to the Government's announcement about the Vale of Belvoir Coalfield.

As you state, the Government wants an efficient and competitive coal industry. The TUC believes that the development of new capacity is fundamental to the achievement of the aim. The Department of the Environment has been considering the Belvoir decision for many months. This delay is extremely damaging and appears indefensible to the people working in the industry.

Yours sincerely

General Secretary,