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LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref: H/PSO/10847/82

Your ref: *Eventl.*

*26* February 1982

*See See*

Thank you for your letter of 29 January about exploitation of the coal reserves in the Vale of Belvoir.

I do appreciate the importance to the coal industry of my decision on the National Coal Board's planning applications to mine this coal, and I am very aware both of the rundown of reserves at the existing Leicestershire pits and the employment consequences. Indeed, these are among the many issues to be studied which arise out of the inquiry Inspector's report. I do assure you that I am giving active consideration to this case, and I hope it will be possible to announce a decision in the not too distant future.

MICHAEL HESELTINE

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