

Police deny any phone taps on NUM officials

By Sandra Hempel

The Home Secretary and two chief constables yesterday dismissed allegations that the police had tapped the telephones of National Union of Mineworkers' officials and disguised themselves as pickets.

Mr Leon Brittan, speaking after a visit to Styal women's prison at Wilmslow, Cheshire, said that claims made by miners at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire,



Mr Brittan: "Smear technique"

were based on "the smear of the week technique". He added: "When I was in Wales last week there were similar allegations of this absurd kind flying around. Then it was said that the Army was involved."

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, questioned in Cardiff, would not comment on claims about telephone tapping in South Wales, but said there was a bogus civil liberties campaign of criticism against the police to "conceal the real facts".

Mr Alf Parrish, Chief Constable of Derbyshire, described suggestions that miners' telephones in the county had been tapped as nonsense.

Police deny any phone taps on NUM officials.

By Sandra Hempel.

The Times (London, England), Saturday, Apr 07, 1984; pg. 2; Issue 61800. (164 words)

Category: News

© Times Newspapers Limited

Gale Document Number:CS34573959