

# Revolt within NUM gathers impetus

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The impetus towards two rival unions in the mining industry gathered pace yesterday when area leaders of the 3,100 traditionally moderate pitmen in South Derbyshire decided to join the rebellion against the National Union of Mineworkers now under way in Nottinghamshire.

As the two sides in the conflict over colliery closures drifted further apart, another 574 men returned to work for the first time since the dispute began last March, according to official figures from the National Coal Board.

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the NCB, was today due to meet Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, for the first time in nearly three months at a gathering of social welfare and trade benevolent organizations in London. But after confirming that the face-to-face meeting would take place, the board later disclosed it had been cancelled.

The about-face indicates just how far apart the two sides are in spite of the NUM's "olive branch" offer to take its entire 26-man national executive into any resumption of negotiations.

National officials of the mineworkers' union yesterday met Mr Stan Orme, Shadow Energy Secretary, for informal talks on the progress of the strike. As he arrived at the House of Commons, Mr Scar-

gill said: "We have intimated our willingness to negotiate, but the NCB have not given any intimations to the union of wanting to re-establish talks."

While the negotiating minuet ground to a halt in London events in the coalfields accelerated. The South Derbyshire NUM executive decided to recommend a change of the local rule book to a delegate conference of branch officials tomorrow that exactly follows the revolt in Nottinghamshire.

The coalfield's miners, who have defied the strike call practically to a man, will be recommended to delete national rule 30 which recognizes the authority of the pro-strike national executive.

An NCB spokesman in the area said: "On the face of it, it does look like there are going to be two trade unions in the East Midlands. The board will consider the position after the NUM delegate conference on January 29, when Nottinghamshire may be expelled. We shall make a decision then on who it will be that we negotiate with".

Yesterday, Mr Henry Richardson, the ousted left-wing secretary of Nottinghamshire miners, took up his new role as leader of the official NUM in the coalfield, looking for offices in the Mansfield area.

Leaders in waiting, page 2  
Letters, page 15

**Revolt within NUM gathers impetus.**

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor.

*The Times* (London, England), Wednesday, Jan 16, 1985; pg. 1; Issue 62037. (416 words)

**Category:** News

© Times Newspapers Limited

**Gale Document Number:**CS17797168