

Harris

22nd September 1982

I am writing to thank you so very much for your hospitality at lunch on Monday.

But I thank you far more than that: once again, you gave me the privilege of listening to the words which flowed from the mouth of one of the finest men of this century.

My one regret was that there were not more who were able to listen to this genius of our time.

We spoke on the telephone yesterday morning. Thank you for your letter which arrived today. I will come to Lord North Street at 6.15 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, 23rd September.

IAN GOW

Lord Harris of High Cross



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21st September 1982

Dear Ian

It was good of you to agree to see me and Malcolm Edwards on Thursday at 6 pm. The one difficulty is that he is rather nervous about coming to Downing Street!

He is in the delicate position as the marketing director of the NCB and privy to all that goes on there. He is completely loyal to the industry but has been increasingly concerned over the last two or three years that the government's fear of the NUM will lead to a mounting cost for coal that will make its long term competitive position completely untenable. He has briefed me with figures showing that total subsidies in a variety of forms already pay about 40% of the industry's wage bill.

He also believes that if the Coal Board is left to develop a tough line it will carry conviction with the workers who are a very different proposition from the period ten years ago which he thinks still obsesses your colleagues.

Since he is nervous about Downing Street I have suggested he comes to Lord North Street where he will arrive around 5.45 in the hope you can join us ^{at} time up to 6.15 for a quarter of an hour. We both have to get away for other meetings at 6.30.

Hope you can manage

Ivan

Wright