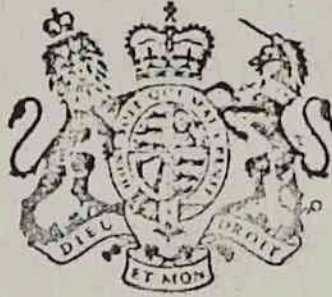


FILE

Original in G/R. ^{H's}

CF to note



cc. SO
HO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 February 1980

Dear Mr. Samuel,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February.

I have been appalled by reports of the scenes outside a number of business premises which have been subject to picketing related to the steel strike. I understand your reaction, and the reaction of your employees.

The police deserve great credit for their efforts to control the situation. I know that at times it has threatened to get beyond their control. As you will know, there is legislation before Parliament on these matters. Among other provisions, this will give companies a remedy in law against secondary picketing. I hope that this will prove adequate to prevent future repetition of the ugly scenes which you describe.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

William Samuel, Esq.

210