

PRIME MINISTER

Incident at Merthyr Vale Colliery

The background is that when miners indicate a wish to go to work, the NCB, in conjunction with police arranges for them to be picked up in taxis which are accompanied to the pit by police vans.

At 0520 this morning a taxi carrying one miner, accompanied by a police van was travelling to the pit along the Head of the Valleys road. A 3 ft. concrete post was thrown from a bridge as the taxi passed underneath. It struck the front of the taxi and went through the windscreen. The taxi went out of control and crashed. The miner was uninjured, but the driver was trapped. He was cut out of the vehicle by the fire brigade but was dead on arrival at the hospital.

The police have set up an incident room. They are treating the case as one of murder. So far, they have released no information on the progress of their investigation.

There has been trouble at Merthyr for some days. The Borough Council had arranged a meeting with the Chief Constable and this is now in progress. Mr. Walker is asking David Hunt to issue a statement after consultation with the Home Office.

ANDREW TURNBULL

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