



1. Andrew Turnbull
2. P.A.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
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Mark Addison Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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to Mark

You will recall that the Coalfield Communities Campaign recently approached the Prime Minister and a number of other Ministers with requests for meetings. As you know, it was agreed that my Secretary of State would meet a delegation from the Campaign on behalf of the Government. I enclose a copy of my note of the meeting.

Copies go to Andy Ridding (Scottish Office), Paul Skellon (Welsh Office) and Sue Vandervord (Department of the Environment).

Yours sincerely
Philip Evans

P R EVANS
Private Secretary



SOS/R 36/85

NOTE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH THE COALFIELD COMMUNITIES CAMPAIGN
8 JULY 1985

Also present: Minister of State, Welsh Office	Cllr Hedley Salt
(Mr Stradling Thomas)	Cllr Douglas Wynn
	Cllr Mona Shankland
PUSS Mr Hunt	Mr Selwyn Jones
Mr Buckley	Mr Albert Bleasby
Mr Granatt	Mr Mike Wedgeworth
Mr Seeney	Mr David Gladstone

Cllr Salt said that the overall objective of the Coalfield Communities Campaign was to maintain existing employment and to create new jobs in mining areas. The Campaign was not seeking to argue that uneconomic pits must stay open, but it felt strongly that an energy policy should be developed ensuring a long term future for a large coal industry. He said the Campaign was also concerned about the protection of the environment and about the prevention of social problems in declining mining communities. Cllr Wynn added that in Scotland there had been a substantial loss of jobs in mining over the past 18 months; he was concerned in particular about the position of miners who had been dismissed during the strike, and about the loss of coal markets in Scotland, including in electricity generation. Cllr Shankland commented that many Welsh mining communities were already significantly depressed and further job losses in mining would have a very bad effect on the general economy of the region.

2. The Secretary of State said he understood the anxieties of the members of the Coalfield Communities Campaign. The British mining industry, with high quality coal and its advanced technology and skills, had the potential to ensure that NCB coal played a key role in the energy economy of the UK and in Europe as a whole. The present Government had encouraged coal conversion in industry, but it was clear that market prospects continued to be damaged by threats of industrial action. It had also undertaken record investment in coal, but it was essential that investment took place in profitable pits which would ensure that the industry had a future.

3. Cllr Salt commented that the creation of NCB (Enterprise) Ltd was a move in the right direction, but he felt more should be done to provide training and assist young people who in the past would have expected to work in the mines. The Secretary of State said he hoped the Coalfield Communities Campaign would do all they could to publicise and encourage the work of NCB(E), which was an important development, particularly in the area of building up new opportunities for self-employment.

P.R. Evans.

P R EVANS
APS/Secretary of State
Rm 1237
Ext 7214
12 July 1985

cc PS/PUSS Mr Hunt
PS/PUS
Mr Manley
Mr Buckley
Ms Beaton
Mrs Brown
Mr Granatt
Mr Seeney

PS/Mr Stradling Thomas