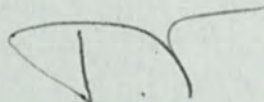


NOTE FOR THE RECORD

IAN MACGREGOR: WORKING MINERS

I discussed with the Prime Minister Mr MacGregor's request that she should receive [redacted], two working miners from Nottinghamshire. She agreed with Mr Walker's advice that she should not do so but a meeting with Mr Walker should be offered instead. I conveyed this message to Mr MacGregor when he telephoned. He took the news greatly amiss and averred that the Prime Minister had unnecessarily lost two friends. From this I rather assumed that he had already told [redacted] that he could secure a meeting of the kind suggested. The alternative proposal of a meeting with Mr Walker was summarily dismissed as having already been turned down.



Tim Flesher  
8 August 1985

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY  
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH  
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ

01-211-6402

R Butler Esq  
Principal Private Secretary  
to the Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

6 August 1985

*Dear Robin,*

We spoke on Friday about Mr MacGregor's rather unorthodox request that the Prime Minister should meet two working miners from the Notts Area. I have subsequently seen your letter of 2 August.

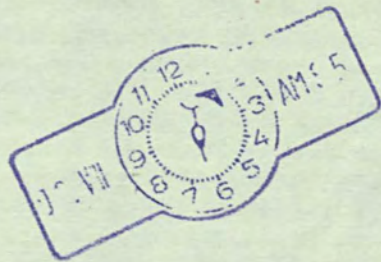
My Secretary of State feels that the best course would be for him to see these men, rather than the Prime Minister.

*Yours ever,*

*G S DART*

G S DART  
Private Secretary

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PRIME MINISTER

IAN MACGREGOR: WORKING MINERS

Ian MacGregor telephoned Robin last week to suggest that it would be a great help to him if you were to give a brief audience to [redacted] whom he described as working miners from Nottinghamshire. He said that they were marvellous people and would give a more favourable view of the way in which working miners had been treated than some of your other sources. Moreover, if you were to receive them it would give a great boost to those who were seeking to escape from the embrace of Mr. Scargill and the NUM in the Nottinghamshire area.

We sought Mr. Walker's advice on this request. Neither [redacted] are known to the Department of Energy and do not seem to be involved in any sense in the Nottinghamshire union. Moreover, it is a little odd that they should be described as "working miners" since that actually applied to 95% of the Notts miners. All in all this is a rather strange request and presumably one designed to impress you with what a good job Mr. MacGregor is doing. For this reason and to avoid any suggestion that you are personally involved in promoting the Nottingham breakaway, Peter Walker suggests, with no great enthusiasm, that he should meet [redacted] on your behalf.

Mr. MacGregor clearly attaches great importance to this. He asked for a meeting before your holiday (although he would not be present) and rang again today to ask how things stood. \*

At the risk of offending Mr. MacGregor, I think you should turn this down. Quite apart from the inconvenience of fitting in a meeting before your holiday neither [redacted] [redacted] have any proven track record in the working miners' movement and to see them might well promote criticism from

others who have risked more and suffered more in the cause.  
This has all the hallmarks of a stunt.

Agree to suggest to Mr. MacGregor that  
see Peter Walker on your behalf?

D

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TIM FLESHER

6 August 1985

VC4ABB