

SRWACS

PRIME MINISTER

IAN MACGREGOR'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

*115 best to tell him - it  
just want for their records  
not*

Mr. Rodney Tyler is ghosting Mr. MacGregor's autobiography. His letter, below, says that he cannot find out the dates of two meetings he believes you had with Mr. MacGregor in 1983, one around the time of the Election and the other in the late summer or early autumn. He would like help with the dates "for the sake of accuracy and in order not to give our enemies any ammunition".

On the facts, we have been unable to track down any meetings between you and Mr. MacGregor in 1983. The files show no record of any meetings and the daily confidential diaries also show no meetings. The only contact we have found is a buffet lunch at Chequers which Mr. MacGregor attended with 26 other people on 11 December 1983. (You may of course be able to remember the meetings which Mr. Tyler believes happened.)

There is a question whether you should give Mr. Tyler any help. First, it would look odd if Mr. Tyler has independent evidence of these meetings and yet we have no record of them. Secondly, is it desirable that you should be drawn into helping with the book in this way? There may be other questions to follow once we start down this road, and there is no telling how the book will come out in the end.

One possibility would be to answer him this time (having sought and received Mr. MacGregor's agreement), but to say that you would not be prepared to answer further questions, and that you would not wish this assistance to be acknowledged in the book. (The reason for this stipulation is that if it were, you would be appearing to give the book a seal of approval.) The difficulty with this course is that we cannot confirm the two meetings.

Agree to say that you feel unable to help with the preparation of the book, and that you hope he will understand this?

*D&S*

DAVID NORNGROVE

7 May 1986

*Prime Minister  
Barnard knows that Tyler is  
a supporter of yours, but he is  
very wary of him and of the  
advanced publicity the book has  
already received. N.C.W.R.5*



LONDON SW1A 2AA

9 May 1986

Thank you for your letter of 23 April  
to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister's diaries show  
no record of any meetings with Mr. MacGregor  
during 1983 except that he attended a buffet  
lunch at Chequers in December that year.  
The Prime Minister herself does not remember  
any meetings.

(DAVID NORGROVE)

Rodney Tyler, Esq.



David Ferguson.

~~Ops please~~

Tibby will need to write the report, it would be with  
your office.

MBVA 29/4

Rodney Tyler  
Ardefour Farmhouse  
Duntrune  
Argyll  
SCOTLAND PA31 8QH.  
Ph. 05465 271.

The Rt. Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher,  
10, Downing Street.  
London S.W.1.

23rd April 1986. Ackd 30/4

Dear Premier Minister,

I am sorry to bother you with such a  
trivial matter - especially when you are so busy. In fact  
I hope you can simply pass this letter on to Caroline  
Ryder without further ado.

My problem is this: As you no doubt know I  
am writing Ian MacGregor's autobiography, advance reports  
of which are, needless-to-say, totally erroneous. In  
preparing the manuscript I have run into a difficulty over  
the dates of two meetings I believe you had with him in  
1983 - his diary for the period between Steel and Coal is  
very largely incomplete. I believe one of these meeting  
was around the time of the election and the other in the  
late summer or early autumn.

Obviously, for the sake of accuracy and in  
order not to give our enemies any ammunition, I would like  
to be able to get details like this absolutely right. I  
wonder, therefore, if you would be so kind as to authorise  
Caroline, when she has a moment, to look up the records  
for me.

Thank you in advance

Regards

Rodney

S

public  
media?



MISS HOLT

COAL STRIKE

Ian MacGregor is writing a book, or having it ghost-written. This will cover at least his period as Chairman of the NCB.

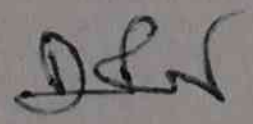
There has already been some controversy about the book: there were stories that it was going to accuse the Prime Minister of, among other things, fomenting the strike.

It would be useful, as preparation for the publication of the book, if CF could put together an annotated diary of contacts between the Prime Minister and Mr. MacGregor, whether face-to-face or in writing, or contacts which took the form of No.10 asking Department of Energy to issue instructions or advice to the NCB.

This is potentially a formidable undertaking, and I envisage that the discussion of contacts through the Department of Energy category would be selective.

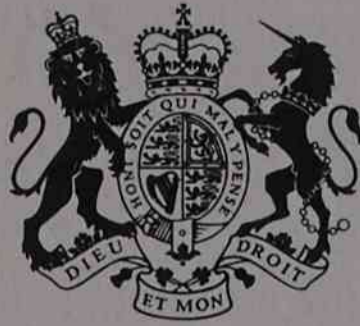
It would save time if the references were flagged up on the file as the diary was prepared. We have no timetable for publication of the book, but it seems unlikely that it will be published before Mr. MacGregor ceases to be Chairman of the NCB (his departure date from the NCB is 31 August 1986). The annotated diary could be prepared as time allows.

You may find it helpful to talk this through with me before starting work.

  
David Norgrove

24 March 1986





10 DOWNING STREET

1. ~~NW~~ - to see,
2. Martin.

An excellent job.

Tudians but very workable.

Thanks.

Jard



10 DOWNING STREET

DW

22/7

Please find attached  
a 'masterpiece' as requested!

All references on the CF  
Files referred to are  
flagged up - the other  
files (GR & Appts.) are easily  
obtainable and have few  
papers on.

Hope this covers all  
angles & is sufficient  
savouring!

Martin



CONFIDENTIAL

DIARY OF CONTACTS BETWEEN NO.10 AND MR. IAN MACGREGOR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Contact and Subject</u>	<u>File</u>
01.02.80	PM meeting with MacGregor and Sir Peter Carey (re appointment as Chairman (BSC) of BSC) at No.10	Appts.File
1. <u>As Part-time Deputy Chairman (02.05.80) and then Chairman of the British Steel Corporation (01.07.80)</u>		
15.11.80	PM meeting with MacGregor, SS/DTI, David Young, David Wolfson (at Chequers) Subjects: BSC Corporate Plan; Gas Pipeline; Public Sector Projects; and others	Steel Ind: Nat.Ind. Pt.7
19.03.81	Letter to MacGregor from PM. Subject: Campbell-Savours MP meeting and Distington foundry closure	" Pt.9
09.09.81	PM meeting with MacGregor and Min. DTI at No.10 Subjects: BSC performance & future; Coal Industry; large-scale building projects	" Pt.10
25.06.82	PM meeting with MacGregor at No.10 Subject: Future Chairmanships of BSC and NCB	Appts.File (NCB)
13.12.82	PM meeting with MacGregor at No.10 Subject: Future Chairmanships of BSC and NCB	Steel.Ind: Nat.Ind. Pt.12
2. <u>As Chairman of the National Coal Board (01.09.83)</u>		
19.01.84	At PM's meeting with Ministers at No.10, the S/S Energy was instructed to put to the NCB points about redundancy payments	Coal Ind: Nat.Ind. Pt.8
23.2.84	Letter from PM to MacGregor sympathising with him over the incident at Ellington Colliery (he was knocked to the ground)	" Pt.8
27.2.84	Letter from MacGregor to PM replying to her letter of 23.2.84	" Pt.8
14.03.84	PM meeting with MacGregor and S/S	"

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

	Energy at No.10, to discuss escalating coal dispute (& Channel Tunnel)	Pt.8
30.03.84	Private Sec.(No.10) instruction to D/Energy to keep in close contact with NCB (in anticipation)	" Pt.8
03.07.84	PM meeting with MacGregor and S/S Energy at No.10 to discuss coal dispute	" Pt.10
03.08.84	MacGregor contact with No.10 (by 'phone?) regarding protection of working miners from intimidation	" Pt.11
04.09.84	PM meeting with MacGregor and S/S Energy at No.10 to discuss Coal Dispute (in particular NCB/NUM talks)	" Pt.12
19.09.84	PS letter to Energy suggesting the NCB's message is pushed harder to miners to encourage a return to work (following PM's meeting with the Miners' Wives Back to Work Campaign)	" Pt.12
19.09.84	Note from PS to PM suggesting she 'phone S/S Energy to ask him to consider "pay awards to working miners" with MacGregor (no evidence it occurred, however)	" Pt.12
23.09.84	PM meeting with MacGregor and S/S Energy at Chequers to discuss coal dispute (in particular the forthcoming talks with the TUC)	" Pt.13
11.10.84	Phone call between PM and S/S Energy discussing NCB/NUM talks, and setting up of an advisory body within the Colliery Review Procedure. (Possible instruction to NCB resulted - no proof)	" Pt.13
14.10.84	Phone call between PM and MacGregor regarding NCB/NUM ACAS talks and texts, and NACODS' dispute (see also phone call between S/S Energy and PM)	" Pt.13
20.10.84	Copy of PM letter to Kinnock of 19.10.84 sent to MacGregor (letter was about Coal Dispute latest)	" Pt.14
23.10.84	PM letter to Edwards (NCB) - encouragement regarding the movement of coal stocks	" Pt.14
30.10.84	PM meeting with Mr. Smith (NCB), S/S Energy, S/S Employment, at House of Commons, to discuss NUM/NCB ACAS talks and developments (S/S Energy 'phoned MacGregor during this)	" Pt.14

CONFIDENTIAL



- 19.01.85 'Phone call between PM & S/S Energy on TUC document and other aspects of coal dispute. Instruction to NCB via S/S Energy to produce proposals " Pt.15
- 25.01.85 PM meeting with S/S Energy and S/S Employment (reporting on coal dispute and "talks about talks" at No.10, 24.1.85) - probably this meeting resulted in a contact with NCB to produce a statement " Pt.16
- 19.02.85 Statements issued after PM meeting with TUC Monitoring Group to discuss Coal Dispute at No.10 Both Mr. Willis and Government said that the PM undertook that S/S Energy would convey the views of the TUC to the NCB " Pt.16
- 20.02.85 Letter from S/S Energy to MacGregor with attached draft letter and statement for MacGregor to send to TUC to pass on to NUM. [PM/No.10 had amended these documents earlier.] " Pt.16
- 08.03.85 Phone call between PS No.10 and S/S Energy reporting on intimidation of working miners for S/S Energy to bring up with MacGregor " Pt.17
- 11.03.85 Meeting of Ministers at No.10, the conclusions of which agreed that S/S Energy should develop the terms of the modified Colliery Review Procedure with the NCB " Pt.17
- 19.03.85 John Redwood meets MacGregor about situation in Coal Industry " Pt.17
- 28.03.85 PS No.10 reporting to Sir Robert Armstrong about MacGregor's problem with transfer of planning consents (presumably after a MacGregor contact with No.10) " Pt.17
- 31.03.85-01.04.85 PS No.10 reported to MacGregor by 'phone on a PM meeting with Working Miners at a Dinner at Sir Woodrow Wyatt's house " Pt.17
- 15.04.85 PS No.10 Personal letter to MacGregor about intimidation, in particular, Mr. & Mrs. Fjaelberg " Pt.17
- 16.04.85 PS No.10 letter to D. Energy about the 'Coal Industry Bill' and seeking the views of MacGregor " Pt.17



## CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

08.05.85	Letter from MacGregor to PS No.10 about intimidation, in particular Mr. & Mrs. Fjaelberg (reply to letter of 15.4.85)	" Pt.17
13.05.85	PM meeting with MacGregor at No.10 about situation in the Coal Industry	" Pt.17
16.05.85	PS No.10 letter to MacGregor about intimidation (Mr. & Mrs. Fjaelberg). Reply to letter of 8.5.85	" Pt.17
23.05.85	PS No.10 letter to PUSS/Energy Hunt, about working miners and their families and a list handed to Gerry Malone to be checked with NCB	" Pt.17
29.05.85	PM meeting with S/S Energy at No.10 about intimidation. Energy to be in touch with NCB	" Pt.17
05.06.85	S/S Energy spoke to MacGregor about Barry Booth and intimidation of working miners after information from Woodrow Wyatt (see also PS note for record of 5.6.85)	" Pt.18
10.06.85	PPS No.10 contacts D. Energy to relate to NCB the PM's concern over intimidation of working miners after information from Woodrow Wyatt	" Pt.18
13.06.85	PM wrote to MacGregor about protection of working miners	" Pt.18
13.06.85	PM wrote to MacGregor to invite him to lunch at No.10 with NCB and S/S Energy	" Pt.18
26.06.85	'Silver Birch' request for a meeting with PM	" Pt.18
04.07.85	PPS telephone call to MacGregor reminding him to reply to PM's letter of 13 June	" Pt.18
10.07.85	PM's discussion with S/S Energy about Chris Butcher - 'Silver Birch' at No.10	" Pt.18
18.07.85	PPS letter to MacGregor reminding him to reply to PM's letter of 13 June	" Pt.18
23.07.85	MacGregor wrote to PM replying to PM's letter of 13 June 1985	" Pt.18

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

- 5 -

25.07.85	PPS letter to D. Energy about MacGregor's reply of 23 July 1985 keeping them informed of NCB's dealings with intimidation of working miners	" Pt.18
02.08.85	MacGregor 'phoned PPS about arranging a meeting with working miners and the PM, and PPS wrote to D. Energy	" Pt.18
06.08.85	MacGregor 'phoned PS following up his request of 2 August 1985, and Energy replied	" Pt.18
08.08.85	MacGregor 'phone conversation with PS telling MacGregor that PM would not see 2 Notts. working miners - not well received	"
09.08.85	PM letter to [redacted] (a miner) about intimidation - passed to MacGregor. (MacGregor wrote to PM 2.9.85, PM replied 13.9.85)	GR file:
23.09.85	PS call to D. Energy to pass on PM's concern over NCB's actions over Notts miners	Coal Ind: Nat.Ind. Pt.18
03.10.85	PM letter to [redacted] (a miner) about intimidation - passed to MacGregor (MacGregor wrote to PM 22.10.85, PM replied 7.11.85)	GR file [redacted]
04.10.85	PS call to D. Energy to ask them to investigate Press claims over NCB handling of Emley Moor Drift Mine (followed by PS letter of 7.10.85)	Coal Ind: Nat.Ind. Pt.18
17.10.85	D. Energy to PS replying about Emley Moor with an attached NCB letter and report from MacGregor	"
28.02.86	NCB Press Release about MacGregor's impending book and the PM's involvement in coal strike	Pt.19
23.04.86	Tyler wrote to PM about 'ghosting' MacGregor's book	"
09.05.86	PS reply to Tyler	"

END OF CONTACTS UP TO 17 JULY 1986

JD3AOE

CONFIDENTIAL

**CLOSED UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT 2000**



NW

MR. IAN MACGREGOR REPLIES TO 'ILL-INFORMED SPECULATION'Book on NUM Strike Not Yet Finished

Mr. Ian MacGregor, Chairman of the National Coal Board, said today (Friday):

"There has been ill-informed speculation about the contents of the book I am writing on the coal strike.

"This appears to be based on a garbled and mis-quoted leak to a magazine on a proposed synopsis of the book - which has been further garbled in today's  
NEWSPAPERS.

"I would like to make three points clear:

- " 1. The book is not yet finished. When it is and is published, then will be the time to comment on its contents.
- " 2. It will not contain an attack on the Prime Minister's leadership during that period. For example, at no stage did she lose her nerve during the NACODS' dispute.
- " 3. It will not suggest that the Prime Minister planned for the coal strike to happen, merely that precautions were taken should there be an industrial dispute."





Travis  
David

10 DOWNING STREET

David : Just for information

Mr D. Hunt's secretary

(Dept of Energy) phoned:

Mrs McCibbon (wife of working  
miner) is seeing Mr McCuega  
on 10/12/85.

fm asked for an update  
of circumstances + situation  
with Mrs McCibbon. I've  
asked men to copy any  
meeting records, follow-up  
letters to Mrs McCibbon etc  
to us.

Margo 2/12