



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Attached is a statement
Peter Walker wants to put
out about Ian MacGregor's
book on the coal dispute.

David Norgrove would be
grateful for your approval/
comments.

(The final paragraph of
the attached is not part of
the statement.)

Catherine
19 September



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

THAMES HOUSE SOUTH
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ
01 211 6402

cc BT.

David Norgrove Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Approved by the PM.

DN

19/9.

14 September 1986

Dear David,

My Secretary of State agreed to let the Prime Minister have a copy of the statement he has passed to the Chief Whip and Mr Tebbit.

This is:

"In the next few months there are several more books to be published on the coal dispute, whose authors range from a senior Coal Board official to a former industrial correspondent. Doubtless a range of views will be expressed, representing the personal standpoints of the authors concerned.

If in the future there is an accurate factual account of the coal dispute it will show that the victory for democracy over the politically motivated militant marxists was not due to any one individual, be it Ian MacGregor, Margaret Thatcher or Peter Walker.

The victory for democracy was due to the determination of those miners and their families who retained the democratic tradition of the National Union of Mineworkers in the face of dreadful intimidation from those who for political reasons had disregarded that tradition.

It was due to the policemen who, with immense courage and, alas, many injuries carried out their duty to uphold the rule of law in this country.

It was due to the common sense of trade unionists and their leaders who recognised the motives of Mr Scargill and refused to support him in his endeavours.

It was also due to a Conservative Government that throughout the bitterest and longest dispute in recent times had a total unity of purpose within the Cabinet and the Parliamentary Party to see that democracy was defended".



As you know, Mr Walker, intends to make no other comment, except to make it clear that none of the criticisms that appear in the book were ever made to him or any other Minister, in spite of the scores of meetings that took place with MacGregor both during and after the dispute.

Yours ever,

Geoff

G S DART
Principal Private Secretary