



Press & Public Relations  
Department.

Phone: 01-222 0151/8  
01-222 9000

Conservative Central  
Office.  
32 Smith Square,  
London SW1P 3HH

MR JOHN SELWYN GUMMER MP

Release Time: IMMEDIATE/MONDAY 18TH JUNE 1984.  
493/84

Statement from Mr John Selwyn Gummer MP (Suffolk Coastal), Conservative Party Chairman,  
on the outcome of the European Election.

"The Conservative results are the best results for any comparable sitting Government  
in the European Community.

It would be surprising if the Conservatives did not lose seats one year into a new  
Parliament. In fact we have done better than any comparable poll at a similar time.  
We have a considerable lead over Labour, both in the popular vote and in seats in  
the European Parliament. Had this been a General Election then the Conservatives  
would have been returned to power with a bigger margin than the Government was returned  
in the Elections of 1974, in the elections of 1970, 1964, 1955, 1951 and 1950.

Of course I am sad that we have lost any seats at all, and, despite the fact that we  
had extraordinary results in 1979 I should like to have held every seat we won then.  
Nevertheless, this is a good result for the Conservatives. Labour must be disappointed  
and the Alliance shattered."

End.





BRIEFING FOR PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS: 19 JUNE 1984

COAL INDUSTRY DISPUTE

Additional Background

There are 43 pits working normally this morning; 7 are turning some coal; 5 have some men working and 118 are idle. Moorgreen in S Notts which would normally be producing coal, and Bolsover in N Derbyshire which would normally be turning some coal, are both on holiday this week. The only change from yesterday is that Shirebrook, where the men were doing maintenance work yesterday, is producing some coal again today.

The main picketing this morning is in North Derbyshire where there are 550 pickets at Shirebrook and 360 at Markham. There are only a handful of pickets at Orgreave this morning with no reports of any trouble.

At Betteshanger colliery in Kent which was invaded by pickets on Sunday, 6 men are continuing to 'sit-in' underground, though it is understood that the occupation will end today. 2 men turned up for work yesterday and are intending to try and work again today.

At Bilston Glen in Scotland where there were clashes with police and 17 arrests yesterday the NCB have once more turned off the power. This followed an NUM decision to withdraw safety cover at the pit. 23 men have turned up for work today and if agreement over safety cover can be reached it is planned to produce some coal today for the first time since the strike began.

The ISTC Annual Conference started in Scarborough today. The ISTC have till tonight to agree minimum supply levels to steel works with the NUM and so avert the threatened withdrawal of essential supplies.

The two mining management unions, NACODs and the BACM, will be attending a Joint Policy Advisory Committee meeting with the NCB today. It is understood they want to discuss Mr Macgregor's proposals for a revised 'plan for coal'.





Briefing for PM's Questions: 19 June 1984

Pits At Risk During Strike Action.

Line to take

The NCB are increasingly concerned about the condition of the collieries which are not working. Many faces are now showing a progressive deterioration because of geological conditions, and the problems from gas and spontaneous combustion are increasing. Already the Board have had to abandon 3 coal faces involving the loss of expensive coal face equipment.

It is deplorable that the nation's assets, and the jobs of miners, should be put at risk by the NUM's prolongation of this dispute, when the NUM leadership claim to be fighting to save collieries and miners' jobs.

Background

The 3 faces lost to date are at Rossington in the Doncaster Area where a face caught fire, Tilmastone in Kent where roadway conditions became so bad that the face became permanently blocked off, and Bold in the Lancashire Area where a face was lost last week due to convergence.

The assistance which the NUM is prepared to give when a colliery is in difficulty varies widely. There are collieries where, if problems occur, there will be delays before men can go down because winding gear needs maintenance.

During the dispute there have been several press reports about faces and collieries at risk. (Copies attached). In today's Times Mr Ron Price, NCB's Chief Mining Engineer, is reported as saying that 40 of NCB's 600 coal faces are giving the NCB concern, and of these more than half have been written off already.





Confidential

Background

The following 24 pits have faces seriously affected by the strike. There are many more pits that have been affected in some way but where conditions are not so critical. The list includes pits likely to suffer from convergence, spontaneous combustion or falls, or where equipment is being damaged.

Scotland

Barony  
Comrie  
Castlehill  
Seafield

N. East

Bates  
Herrington  
Dawden

Doncaster

Brodsworth  
Bentley  
Goldthorpe  
Markham  
Askern

Barnsley

Dodworth  
Houghton  
Kinsley  
Woolley

S. Yorks

Barnburgh  
Manton

N. Derby

Shirebrook  
Warsop

Weston

Bold  
Holditch

S. Wales

Bedwas  
Celynen South

19th June 1984





## SUBSIDY TO THE COAL INDUSTRY

This note treats "subsidy" as comprising:-

- a deficit/operational grants to NCB on an accruals basis;
- b social grants on an accruals basis;
- c cash expenditure on RMPS (since in the private sector, an industry would need to finance its own redundancy terms).

Because of the inclusion of RMPS, subsidies should be described as being "to the coal industry" rather than "to the NCB".

£m	1979/80	1980/81	1981/2	1982/3	1983/4
Deficit/operational grants	189	175	455	386	875
Social grants	62	80	124	135	260
RMPS	15	15	48	80	193
TOTAL	266	271	626	601	1328

COAL 1

19 June 1984



## COAL DISPUTE

The miners' leaders talk of pursuing this strike until they achieve victory. But there can be no victory for anyone however long the strike lasts.

First, the prospects of the industry have already suffered. Orders have been lost and customers' confidence in the industry's abilities to supply has been damaged.

Secondly, the strike has set back the Boards aim to produce a prosperous industry, operating for the benefit of miners and customers alike.

Finally, as the strike drags on, more damage is being done. Miners have already lost £2,000 in earnings. Pits are deteriorating and permanent damage could be done, to some with an excellent future. It is up to the NUM to call off this unnecessary strike. No Government, of whatever political colour, can afford to yield to the blackmail of mob violence.

19 June 1984