

01 211 6402

P E Heathfield Esq  
Secretary  
National Union of Mineworkers  
St James' House  
Vicar Lane  
Sheffield  
South Yorkshire  
S1 2EX

26 February 1985

*P E Heathfield*

Thank you for your letter of 22 February in which you asked whether or not the NACODS agreement of last October is available to the NUM. It was of course made clear last October that this agreement was available to the NUM. It was, however, not only rejected by the NUM but in an interview concerning the agreement your President, Mr Scargill, stated "Anybody who claims to be on the Left and suggests that the NACODS deal was acceptable is quite frankly bloody stupid - the deal was an absolute sham".

In your letter you state that you have been faced by a demand from the National Coal Board that you sign an agreement dealing with the future of collieries. You are well aware that the National Coal Board freely entered talks with the TUC at the latter's request in order to produce a wording that would be the firm agreement on the main issues of this dispute.                      

Seven leading trade unionists at the meeting with the Prime Minister confirmed that this was the position and, as you know, the wording was provided to you last Thursday by the TUC.

The document contains all the appropriate references to the modified colliery review procedures in accordance with the principles agreed with NACODS. Unfortunately you and your executive have rejected this document.

The Coal Board have made clear publicly, as they have made clear to the TUC, that this was their last word on these issues. For it is a document which carries within it not only the spirit of the NACODS agreement but also the spirit of the compromise proposal made by ACAS last October, also rejected by you. It also contains clarifications asked for by the TUC itself.



I hope therefore on reflection your executive will now see the importance of swiftly accepting this document as the firm agreement on the main issues of the dispute, thus bringing the dispute, and the damage to your members, their communities and their industry, to an end.

*Peter Walker*

PETER WALKER



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Peter Walker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text.

PETER WALKER

# NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS

ST. JAMES' HOUSE, VICAR LANE,  
SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE S1 2EX

President A. SCARGILL

Secretary P. E. HEATHFIELD

Telephone: 0742 700388

Please quote our reference in reply:

Your Ref:

Our Ref: PEH/yf

Mr. Peter Walker,  
Secretary of State for Energy,  
Thames House South  
Millbank  
LONDON SW1P 4QJ



22nd February, 1985

Dear Mr. Walker,

For the past 12 months the NUM has been involved in strike action as a result of the National Coal Board announcing a pit closure programme on the 6th March, 1984, and also indicating its intention to close five collieries where there had been specific undertakings given under the established procedures which operate in the industry.

In the course of this dispute, the NUM have attempted to negotiate a settlement but are constantly faced with a demand from the National Coal Board that we sign an agreement dealing with the future of collieries.

The Union has made clear its willingness to accept the modified colliery review procedure which was negotiated at ACAS last October. Mr. David Hunt, in the House of Commons on the 4th February, indicated this agreement was available to the NUM. Could I ask you to confirm that that part of the NCB/NACODS agreement dealing with the modified colliery review procedure (see attached) is available to the NUM?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P.E. Heathfield".

P.E. HEATHFIELD  
Secretary