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Pl. p.c.

PRIME MINISTER

As you know, you are still receiving a number of letters from miners who continue to suffer intimidation. We and the Department of Energy are ensuring that they are drawn to Ian MacGregor's attention.

You may be interested therefore to see an example of the Coal Board's response. It adopts a rather tough tone, but notes that the Board will take action when there is firm evidence of intimidation.

MEMA

MARK ADDISON

8 May 1985

SL3AFS



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8 May 1985

Mark Addison Esq
with the compliments of

As discussed, an example of one of
the letters. I hope it fits the bill.

P R Evans
the Private Secretary to
the Secretary of State

Ian MacGregor

Mr John White
1 Marlborough Road
Dover
Kent CT17 9ND

10th April 1985

Dear Mr White

Thank you for your recent letter

Like many of the letters that I receive daily, your letter contains no firm evidence or description of the behaviour you are describing and so it is impossible for me to take action. I am afraid that the situation is such that there is a lot of talk but very few facts on which we can act. If specific instances are brought to my attention or the attention of local management then rest assured appropriate steps will be taken to combat any misdemeanours.

Every effort is made to protect our people from intimidation but unless we have hard evidence we do not have much to work with. You may have observed that immediate action is taken in cases where we do have evidence.

The question of transfers is not simple. The traditions of Areas and their concern about filling vacancies from the large pool of young people who are looking for work has been a jealously guarded "right" even in the moderate coalfields. In point of fact, to the extent it has been possible, we have been able in some parts of the country to achieve a modest number of transfers.

I find much in your letter with which I agree and you have identified the dedication of the militant people in the labour movement. For our part, we do understand and are working with the people involved to try to resolve any problems which are identified. When we have concrete facts, action is taken.

Finally, may I thank you for your kind words of encouragement and support

Sincerely,

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White

Ian MacGregor

10th April, 1985

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Mr. John White,
1, Marlborough Road,
Dover,
Kent, CT17 9ND.

White's letter

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