

SCARGILL IN 'SIX-HOUR TALK WITH LIBYANS'

N.o.W. 4 NOV 1984
By HUGH BEHN

MINERS' leader Arthur Scargill had a secret six-hour meeting with the paymaster of Libya's Colonel Gaddafi, it is claimed today.

The cloak-and-dagger talks between the NUM president and Salem Ibrahim are said to have taken place in Paris on October 8.

Ibrahim—identified as Gaddafi's paymaster by French security forces—met Mr Scargill to discuss ways of financing the pit strike, says the Sunday Times.

Yet, in a stormy interview with David Frost screened on breakfast telly today, the miners' leader said he did not know the name of any Libyans he met in Paris.

During the heated confrontation, recorded yesterday for TV-am's Good Morning Britain show, Mr Scargill declared:

"All I know is that I met some people who said they were from Libya, and trade unionists.

"I don't know who Mr Salem Ibrahim is, unless he is a representative of the trade unionist movement. If he is, he would possibly be one of those."

REGIME

But Ibrahim has NO connection with trade unions and French security experts say he is a senior intelligence officer—one of the most dangerous men in Gaddafi's tinpot regime.

Sparks flew during the Frost interview when Mr Scargill was asked whether he would accept money from so-called

trade unionists in Libya following the controversial meeting with Gaddafi by the NUM's chief executive Roger Windsor.

Mr Scargill replied that his union would take aid from trade unionists "anywhere in the world."

Asked why he would not specifically say Libya, he snapped at Frost: "If you don't like the answer, I'm sorry, that's your problem."

Mr Scargill said the NUM would NOT accept money from the "Libyan regime."

But Frost said he was suspicious of Mr Scargill's "evasiveness."

The miners' leader



SCARGILL: TV fury

Strike leader clashes with Frostie in TV row

retorted that if Frost did not understand his answer "it may be that you're not doing enough television."

Frost and Mr Scargill continued arguing heatedly during breaks in filming and the row even spilled out on to the street later.

At one point the two men accused each other of "going on."

Irritated, Frost told Mr Scargill: "You have to when you're on the air otherwise you don't get a bloody word in edge-ways."

ENERGY secretary Peter Walker yesterday challenged Mr Scargill to come clean over reports that cash aid for the pit strike was being sought from Russia and other eastern bloc countries.

SHOP STEWARDS of electrical supply workers meeting in Doncaster yesterday urged power unions to take action in support of the miners.

Pit drift back gathers speed

IN the past four months 6,284 striking miners have returned to work, bringing the total to almost 53,000, producing 530,000 tons of coal a week.

Coal Board chiefs, delighted by last week's record drift back to work by 351 miners, have launched a big push to end the strike before winter sets in.

Personal appeals were sent to 17,000 miners yesterday promising they could earn an average of £1,400 before Christmas if they go back now.

MINERS' SNUB FOR KINNOCK

A CASH crisis is building up for Neil Kinnock and Labour as thousands of miners opt out of the political levy that pays the party's bills.

Numbers of working miners in the Midlands, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire are stopping their support, area NUM officials reported yesterday.

"Contracting out" has also spread to Yorkshire's strike-bound coalfield, said a spokesman there.

And a NUM official in the Midlands said: "What had been a trickle of lads coming in with contracting out forms became a flood after the Labour Party conference."

"My members didn't like what they saw of the new hard Left on TV and they are now taking the

By WILLIAM RANKINE

only practical step they know."

For most trade union members the levy amounts to just over a penny a week—but it's a

Last year Labour head-vital lifeline for Labour, quarters at Walworth Road, London, had an income of £3.75 million—of which £3 million came from union affiliation fees.