



10 DOWNING STREET

Note for the Record

I spoke to Mr Butcher
along lines of this minute.
He accepted this explanation
without taking offence. He
did not respond on other of a
meeting with Mr Walker.

AT

13/4

Chris Butcher
96 Dovecroft
New OVERTON
Newark
Notts

Manstield 862 994

SECRET

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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH WORKING MINERS

I raised with you Mr. Chris Butcher's request for a meeting. As you will see from the attached minute, Mr. Walker's advice was strongly against agreeing to such a request. You, however, were reluctant to say 'no' and suggested meeting Mr. Butcher and the Working Miners Committee separately.

I have put this idea to Mr. Walker, but he still recommends strongly against seeing any of the working miner groups at present. He believes seeing just Mr. Butcher would create more trouble than it is worth, at a time when things are running in favour of the working miners. The Working Miners Committee are currently engaged in tricky negotiations with the NCB to find a way of accepting the pay increase and back pay. They do not think meeting you would be helpful at present.

Mr. Walker has suggested that you could deflect Mr. Butcher's request in the following way:-

- (i) You stand fully behind the cause of the working miners, e.g. Guildhall speech;
- (ii) You do not want to become a source of dissension within the working miners cause, particularly when things are going well and unity is essential. You think it would be better for working miners generally if you did not meet any single group unless you could meet them all;

(iii) You understand that the Working Miners Committee are in negotiations with the NCB and that, as a result, they do not think a meeting with you is appropriate;

(iv) In these circumstances you hope Mr. Butcher will understand and will not press his request. This should in no way be taken as a sign of lack of support on your part, but a judgement about what is best for the working miners movement;

(v) Should he wish to have a further meeting with Mr. Walker that could be arranged.

(vi) when the strike is over - I will have all
Agree I speak to Mr. Butcher on these lines? *yes if walking
miners then
I will do
No, 10
not*

12 November 1984