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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 February 1980

Dear Mr. Norton

Thank you for your letter of 15 February.

I was absolutely horrified at the picketing scenes outside Hadfields last week. The South Yorkshire police appear to have done a marvellous job in maintaining access to your works; but equally, there seems little doubt that many of the pickets - in their attempts at obstruction and intimidation - were acting outside the law. I am very sorry indeed that the workforce finally decided to strike once again.

We will certainly push ahead with our legislation against secondary picketing as fast as possible. But I fear this cannot be fast enough to affect the current dispute.

Yours sincerely

MT

Derek Norton Esq

jfh

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CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE  
Telephone No. 440353

Prime Minister.

This has just come in (2030).  
I will let you have a copy  
reply on Monday.

Standy about  
reply mini put 15:00

HADFIELDS LIMITED  
EAST HECLA WORKS  
SHEFFIELD S9 1TZ

15th February, 1980

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON

Dear Prime Minister,

I was delighted to hear your condemnation in the House yesterday of the appalling scenes that took place outside our gates. May I also take this opportunity to thank you for your reply dated 23rd January, to my original letter.

The sheer physical intimidation used to prevent our employees from reaching their place of employment yesterday is widely reported by most of the media this morning and will, I trust, accelerate action by your Government to prevent similar recurrences.

I feel it is worth mentioning to you that I have received over 400 letters in support of the stand we have taken against both the strike and picketing, and the over-riding theme of the letters is that people are delighted to see a British Lion roaring again.

The complacency of Sir Charles Villiers has to be seen to be believed and you will have been advised that despite my reaching agreement with Mr. Bill Sirs that my men could continue to work, he did a complete 'U' turn and called them out on strike again without even having the decency to tell me personally.

Just where is this fantastic country of ours going?. Even more important to me as a business man, is who now pays the bill for the £1m. per week that my company will lose whilst others fiddle as Rome burns.

Please dear Prime Minister, grab the appropriate people by the throat and make them act as men.

Yours sincerely

Derek Norton

DEREK NORTON

N.B. Have been on  
to home for this weekend  
check possibility of telegraph  
clearly (Picketing) in  
special 1. clause  
will be used. The  
police can't  
carry  
on like  
this need  
work.  
It is  
confronted with  
in Prison  
not

pps please