



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 March 1982

Dear Mr. Gormley

Thank you for your letter of 29 January about the Vale of Belvoir coalfield.

I fully understand your concern about the time it is taking to reach a decision on the National Coal Board's planning applications, and I am well aware of the importance to your members in Leicestershire and South Nottinghamshire of creating new jobs.

However, the Belvoir case really is very complex, and it is important that all the implications of the inquiry inspector's recommendations are fully studied. I know that Michael Heseltine, who has statutory responsibility for the decision, has himself devoted much time to this issue and is continuing to do so. Indeed, I understand he wrote to you recently about it. I do assure you that everything possible is being done to bring matters to a speedy conclusion.

Every good wish.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

J. Gormley, Esq., O.B.E.

ds