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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 February, 1982

My dear Mr. Todd,

Thank you very much for your letter of 12 February letting me know of the latest developments surrounding your dismissal and the dismissal of your colleagues by Walsall Council.

Let me say straightaway that you all have my full support in your demand to be reinstated in your jobs as the industrial tribunal has ordered.

I was delighted by the tribunal's decision which completely vindicates the courageous stand you and your colleagues took in defence of your rights. In the light of that decision, I was surprised and saddened by the reported statements of the leader of Walsall Council that the Council intend to defy the tribunal's order. If this is indeed so, I have no hesitation in condemning their attitude in the strongest possible terms, in calling on them to think again before taking such a shameful decision and in urging them to comply with the tribunal's order to reinstate you and your three colleagues in your jobs.

We have seen in the case of Sandwell Council how powerful public opinion can be in preventing further sackings of non-union employees in violation of their statutory rights. I trust that the universal condemnation which Walsall's Council's actions have

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attracted will make them realise that the only proper course open to them now is to ensure that you can return to your jobs.

I am releasing this letter to the press.

Every good wish.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

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Mrs Doris Todd