

SHAKY SCARGILL IN TREBLE CLIMBDOWN

Sun 24 JAN 1985

By TOM CONDON and TONY MAGUIRE

MINERS' leader Arthur Scargill climbed down three times yesterday in a desperate bid to keep his pit strike alive.

The NUM president was hoping to head off a revolt at today's NUM executive meeting in Sheffield.

He is trying to keep his 24-man executive and 110,000 strikers behind him by:

OFFERING an amnesty to South Derbyshire's 3,200 working miners for defying the strike and threatening to quit the union.

POSTPONING plans to throw the working Notts miners out of the union—provided new peace talks start by next Wednesday.

SCRAPPING his scheme to kick out members representing small moderate areas of the union.

But Mr Scargill's triple climb-down may be too late to stop both South Derbyshire and Leicestershire joining a new Notts moderate union.

The NUM let it be known it would cancel next Wednesday's special conference, at which Notts will be expelled, if new peace talks are under-way.

Agree

But the Coal Board, backed by Premier Margaret Thatcher, is adamant that the NUM must agree to discuss loss-making pits before discussions can restart.

MORE trouble came for Mr Scargill as another 382 strikers returned to work yesterday bringing the total so far this week to 2,900.

THANKS, BROTHER

Twenty railmen are to lose their jobs on Humber-side because lorries have taken over the transport of iron ore "blackd" by train drivers.

The Sun Says—Page 6

SUN MOLE TELLS ALL!

How I joined Arthur's army

... I HAVE just read the most terrific ...

Sun
explosive

From yesterday's Sun . . . pit spy Ellis

PEACE HINT AT UNION SUMMIT

THE EXECUTIVE of the NUM will be asked today to consider a possible draft peace agreement that could end the coal strike.

The plan emerged from the meeting on Monday between Coal Board industrial relations director Ned Smith and Mr Peter Heathfield, the union general secretary.



Norman Willis . . . "basis for peace talks"

Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said "positive points" had emerged from the talks and provided a "substantial basis for peace negotiations leading to an honourable settlement."

The Coal Board are now ready not to pursue their key objective of cutting coal capacity by four million tonnes and closing five pits because the 11-month old strike has already achieved at least some economies

Our pit dossier goes to court

By RICHARD ELLIS

THE Sun's shocking dossier on the truth behind pit strike violence is to be used in a court battle against Arthur Scargill.

Working miners yesterday greeted our exposure of the bully-boy tactics used by pickets as proof that Mr Scargill and other NUM leaders are "conspiring" in the intimidation.

I spent five weeks under cover to find out how strikers beat up "scabs," ambush coaches and sabotage power stations.

Now the information is to be presented to a High Court judge next month when 19 working Yorkshire miners press for an injunction against unlawful picketing.

A solicitor acting for the men—who are also claiming damages for intimidation and violence—said: "We believe the Sun's article shows that the NUM leaders are involved."

And Colin Clarke, president of the National Working Miners' Committee, said: "At last the truth is out about how the intimidation is being organised."