

NUM HINTS AT 'NO DEAL' RETURN

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By TOM CONDON
ARTHUR SCARGILL may lead his striking miners back to work without a negotiated settlement — rather than accept outright surrender, it was hinted last night.

This amazing option could be considered by the NUM leadership if there is a big new surge back to work on Monday.

Mr Scargill revealed his thinking after the latest breakdown in talks in London yesterday.

He said the union would be in a "considerably better position" if the men went back united rather than accepting pit closures on economic grounds as the Coal Board want.

The NUM leader could advise his 100,000 striking miners to return and "re-group" to fight another day.

This would leave the union's declared opposition to pit closures intact



Scargill . . . option

Union's plan to save face

but still let the miners' leader off the hook when it comes to signing a surrender document.

Meanwhile, Premier Margaret Thatcher declared last night that thousands of striking miners are ready to return to work.

Hook

As another 170 new faces crossed the picket lines, she said many pitmen would be happy to accept the conditions on pit closures that existed **BEFORE** the 11-month-old strike.

TUC CHIEF Norman Willis admitted defeat yesterday in his latest effort to revive talks.

● TWO striking miners who ambushed a working colleague by stringing a "booby trap" cable across his road to work received 18 months youth custody at Derby yesterday.



Mick is slammed

● **MINERS' leader** Mick McGahey was rapped by the journalists' union yesterday after he slammed his taxi door on a TV reporter's hand.

● The National Union of Journalists accused him of "acting deplorably." The incident was shown on TV-am. Journalist Chris Fletcher needed hospital treatment.