

# Pit victory

# claimed by Scargill

From Richard Owen  
Moscow

Mr Arthur Scargill yesterday told Russians that the miners' strike had politicized thousands of young British men and women "to a degree that seemed unbelievable only two or three years ago". The struggle itself had been the 12-month strike's most important achievement, "a brilliant victory", the National Union of Mineworkers' leader said in *Trud*, the Soviet trade union daily.

He gave the interview during his visit to Moscow on Monday and Tuesday for talks with Soviet Union officials. He refused to tell British correspondents where he was staying and Soviet officials declined to pass on interview requests. Mr Scargill said he was in Moscow to prepare for an international miners' conference.

He told *Trud* he wanted to thank Soviet workers for their moral and material support during the miners' "historic struggle", but emphasized that workers in America, Australia and Western Europe had also given aid. The dispute "the most prolonged national strike in history", had had achievements which should not be under-estimated, including the fact that pit closures and job losses imposed by the National Coal Board "on the orders of the Government" had not been carried out. Seventy per cent of the strike's aims had been achieved.

Mr Scargill made no mention of miners who had opposed the strike.