



10 DOWNING STREET

~~Prime Minister~~

Strike handling: coordination

You will remember suggesting that Tom King chaired a coordinating group. We have now found a way of setting this up by combining it with Bernard's group.

The attached letter sets out the suggested arrangements.

Agree that I should write in these terms?

WMA  
FERB 17.7.



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*From the Principal Private Secretary*

17 July 1984

Now that there is a dock strike as well as a coal strike, the matters which the Government will have to consider will become increasingly interlinked. The Prime Minister has asked the Secretary of State for Employment if he would chair a group, which should meet most days following the morning meetings held by the Secretary of State for Energy and the Secretary of State for Transport respectively and in advance of MISC 101, to consider whether any coordination is necessary and any gaps need to be filled, particularly in ensuring that the Government's position is properly represented on the media.

The Prime Minister has suggested that the group should consist of junior Ministers who may be able to help with making the Government's case on the media and also that Bernard Ingham should attend together with the chief information officers of the Departments principally concerned - viz., Energy, Transport, Trade and Industry, Home Office and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Other Departments, eg Treasury, and the Scottish and Welsh Offices, could be invited as required.

The Prime Minister would be grateful if the Ministers in charge of the Departments listed above (to whose offices I am copying this letter) would be ready to nominate a junior Minister to take part in these meetings, and if your Secretary of State would arrange the first meeting as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office) and S.

David Normington, Esq.,  
Department of Employment

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