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PRIME MINISTER

Coal and Docks: MISC 101(84)29th Meeting

DOCKS

If the dock strike is called off tomorrow and there is a general return to work on Monday, you may like to begin with that item and ask for brief reports from the Secretaries of State for Transport and Employment:

- to tell colleagues how the dispute was finally resolved
- to draw out the implications for the handling of the coal dispute.

2. You may be interested to know that departments, through the machinery of the Civil Contingencies Unit, have been asked to pool the experience gained in the dock strike, with a view to developing, and perhaps radically revising, the plans for Service assistance.

COAL

3. You will wish to ask for the usual reports from:

- i. the Secretary of State for Energy
  - on the number of pits and miners working
  - on the publicity campaign
- ii. the Home Secretary *(Whely to be represented by the Head)*
  - on law and order

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- iii. the Secretary of State for Transport
  - on coal movements
  
- iv. the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
  - on the situation at the British Steel Corporation and the effects on coal burning industry.

4. The most fruitful theme for discussion may be to consider how best to maintain the momentum for the Government and the NCB in this new phase in the campaign. We have made a fresh start with the breaking off of the talks and the publication of NCB proposals which can be generally presented as reasonable. This has been followed up by a press campaign designed to isolate Mr Scargill as intransigent and undemocratic. What are the next moves and how are they to be paced over the coming month or so, so as to stimulate an accelerating drift back to work?

NEXT MEETING

5. If there are no outstanding problems relating to the talks, and no immediate new issues relating to coal you may wish to stand down the MISC 101 meeting provisionally arranged for 3.45pm on Wednesday 25 July. There will of course be an opportunity for a discussion under the Industrial Affairs item at Cabinet on Thursday 26 July.

*PLG*

P L GREGSON

20 July 1984

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