

SECRET

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PRIME MINISTER

COAL DISPUTE

Having encountered difficulty in engaging Mr. Walker in open discussion, Mr. Tebbit is seeking, by more tangential means, reassurance that facts are being gathered and options studied in a number of areas:-

- (i) power station endurance.
- (ii) transport of coal and coke.
- (iii) redundancies and closures.
- (iv) civil action.
- (v) the extent of the drift back to work.

He suggests that Peter Gregson be commissioned to establish the facts on (i), (ii) and (v), which should then be reported to one more meeting of a smaller group of Ministers before people disperse. You will be discussing endurance tonight, but further work could be undertaken on the other items.

Agree I set up a meeting of the inner group of MISC 101 either ✓ for the end of next week or the beginning of the week after before you depart?

25 July, 1984

SECRET