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P.01385

PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(84)40th Meeting

You will wish to deal first with coal and then with the docks.

Coal

2. After the usual reports on the number of pits and miners working, the extent of picketing, and coal movements, you will probably wish to concentrate discussion on the following:

i. the latest position in the NCB/NUM talks and the handling of the outcome;

ii. the prospects for the ballot on 26 September by the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirers (NACODS);

- is there any evidence about ranks and file opinion among the deputies?



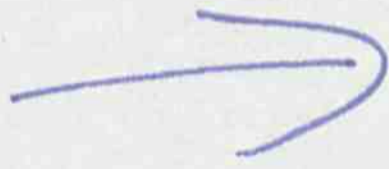
- what is the NCB doing to try and promote a favourable ballot result?

See Policy Unit note on endorsement



iii. the prospects for sympathetic action by other unions, particularly at the power stations;

(several important union meetings are being held around this time)



iv. up-to-date information about the loss of coal faces;

(the Secretary of State for Energy promised to provide up-to-date information at MISC 101(84)38th Meeting on 10 September)



v. what action is in hand to avert a shortage of fuel for space heating (especially for industrial and commercial purposes) from October onwards?

(the Secretary of State for Energy promised to look into this at MISC 101(84)35th Meeting on 30 August)

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- vi. civil action in the courts;
 - are there any developments on the various actions by working miners?
 - if the talks break down, should action against the NUM be re-considered as a strategic option?

Docks

3. After the usual report on the number of ports and dockers working you will probably wish to concentrate discussion on:

- i. the latest position on the attempts to settle the dispute by agreeing on delivery levels for Ravenscraig;
- ii. civil action in the courts;
(the latest intentions of the Port of London Authority, P & O and others)
- iii. the CBI survey and possible press conference on the effects of the strike;
(at MISC 101(84)39th Meeting on 12 September the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry said that he would be given the results of the survey on Monday and this would enable the Group to assess the advantages and disadvantages of the press conference envisaged for Wednesday).

Next meeting

4. The next meeting of the Group has been provisionally arranged for Wednesday 19 September at 2.30pm.

PLG

P L GREGSON

14 September 1984

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