

SECRET

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PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(84)43rd Meeting: Coal

After the usual reports from the Secretary of State for Energy on the number of pits and miners working and coal movements and from the Home Secretary on law and order, you will probably wish to concentrate the discussion on:

- i. Mr Orme's latest efforts to restart negotiations between the NCB and NUM;
- ii. the NCB's handling of its talks with NACODS;  
(from Press reports it seems that a crunch will soon be reached with NACODS pressing for an independent review procedure for closures which the NCB will be unable to accept: what will happen then? and, even if the talks with NACODS do reach some acceptable understanding about closures, where does that leave us with the NUM?)
- iii. the civil action by working miners against Mr Scargill and the NUM executive;  
(you will wish to ask the Attorney General how he thinks the court will proceed; can the route of fines and sequestration rather than imprisonment be pursued? What is the likely impact on the NUM, on the attitudes of rank and file miners, and on other unions?)
- iv. the latest assessment of the likelihood of sympathetic action by power station workers.

Next meeting

2. There will be an opportunity for a further discussion under the Industrial Affairs item at Cabinet on Thursday 4 October but this will have to be brief since the Cabinet agenda is long. The next meeting of MISC 101 is on Monday 8 October at 11.30am.

*PLG*  
P L GREGSON

2 October 1984

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