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SECRET AND PERSONAL

Michael Schaar

22 October 1981

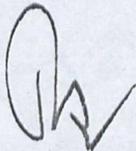
Policy Unit

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PRIME MINISTER

NUM

1. We have studied the report submitted by Sir Robert Armstrong on 20 October. We suggest you only need to read the summary. There is no reason to doubt the report's general conclusion that there is not a well-planned, subversive strategy on the part of the NUM's present or likely future leadership.
2. However, the lack of such a plan gives no grounds for comfort. Scargill will look for opportunities to confront the Government. We remain certain that our best defence against an opportunistic Left-wing leadership is to convince a majority of rank and file opinion that strike action would be long and costly - and therefore not worth undertaking unless they feel their vital economic interests are threatened.
3. Robert Wade-Gery's group will be reporting shortly on deterrence measures - both building up stocks and increasing our known capacity to replenish stocks during a dispute. This report does not diminish their importance.



JOHN HOSKYNS

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