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PRIME MINISTER

Coal: MISC 101(84)7th Meeting

You will wish to stick to the usual format:

- reports
- discussion
- action to be taken.

2. Subject to developments by the time of the meeting, you may wish to pursue the following points in particular:

i. any change in the number of pits and miners working;
(it has just been reported that the Nottinghamshire NUM Executive will be considering a proposal on Thursday that they should set up their own pickets at Nottinghamshire pits and advise their members not to cross picket lines)

ii. the extent and effectiveness of sympathetic action by the rail unions, TGWU and seamen;
(the NUR resolution bans the movement of coal or coke "unless a specific request is made by the NUM", presumably to accommodate any agreed dispensations; this is perhaps a loophole which the Nottinghamshire NUM Executive could exploit if it so wished)

iii. how much room is there to stock coal at pits, particularly in Nottinghamshire, where miners are still working;
(although coal at the pitheads which cannot be moved is

SECRET



SECRET

irrelevant to endurance, it is important psychologically for the Nottinghamshire miners to be able to continue working until there is a national ballot)

iv. whether there is any cause for concern about carbon dioxide supplies to nuclear stations;

(there is a story on page 2 of today's Guardian about pickets from South Wales turning away a carbon dioxide tanker from the Trawsfynydd station in North Wales)

v. the latest assessment of the scope for, and desirability of, civil action in the courts;

vi. the latest information about the effects on the steel industry and other main coal using industries.

Next meeting

3. There will be a short discussion under the Industrial Affairs item at Thursday's Cabinet. Unless there are developments requiring decisions before the weekend, you will presumably want the next meeting to be arranged on Monday.

PLG

P L GREGSON

3 April 1984

SECRET