SECRET

P.01269

PRIME MINISTER

Coal: MISC 101(84)9th Meeting

You will wish to stick to the normal 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;
 - ii. any problems over law and order;
 - iii. the extent and effectiveness of sympathetic action by the rail unions, TGWU and seamen; (the movement of coal by rail appears to be much reduced since the weekend; it would be useful to know whether there is any danger that some of the Nottinghamshire pits may run out of room to store the coal that they are producing)
- been breted to gue a full account of stocks in industry.
 - iv. the latest information about the effects on the steel industry and other main coal using industries;
 - v. an assessment of the domestic coal supply position; (there have been press reports suggesting that difficulties are beginning to arise in the North of England)

1

SECRET

Next meeting

3. There will be an opportunity for a brief discussion under the Industrial Affairs item at Thursday's Cabinet, but the outcome of the NUM National Executive meeting is unlikely to be known until after that. Although there might be a case for a meeting on Friday to discuss the National Executive's decision, it may be more sensible to stick to the normal pattern of a Monday meeting. This would give you the opportunity to review the situation before leaving for Portugal, and would enable the Group to discuss not just the National Executive's decision but the subsequent reactions to it.

Pop

P L GREGSON

10 April 1984

2

SECRET