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PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(84)15th Meeting: Coal

After the usual reports, you will wish, in the light of the exchanges in Cabinet on 10 May (CC(84)18th Conclusions, Minute 5) to have a general review of tactics. Depending on developments by the time of the meeting you may wish to concentrate particularly on:

- i. Full use of the criminal law
 - to prevent intimidation not only at the workplace but on the way to work and at home
 - to deal with violence and criminal damage.

(The Attorney General hopes to be able to attend and is re-arranging his diary for this purpose; failing that the Solicitor General will come.)

See attached letter from Mr Ridley. Mr Walker is very concerned and may speak to you over the weekend.

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- ii. Support for the miners from the rail unions.
- iii. The battle for the hearts and minds of the rank and file miners
 - the latest assessment of the effects of NUM rallies
 - efforts by moderates in the strike bound areas to start a return to work
 - the NCB mailshot to individual miners.

- iv. Contacts between the NCB and the NUM
 - is there any significant softening of the NUM position since last week's National Executive meeting?

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Next meeting

2. In the light of the discussion you will wish to judge whether to have a further meeting of MISC 101 on Wednesday (a provisional time has been booked at 2.15pm) or wait until Thursday's Cabinet. (You will have an opportunity to talk to the Secretary of State for Energy and the Chancellor but none of the other members of MISC 101 at the special meeting which has been arranged for 11.30am on Tuesday at Mr Walker's request to talk about the problems of recovery after the strike and their financial implications.

PLG
P L GREGSON

11 May 1984

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