

Ref. A084/1481

PRIME MINISTER

Industrial Affairs: Coal

After asking for the usual reports on the latest situation, you will probably wish to concentrate the discussion on the recent increase in violence and intimidation and the measures being taken to deal with this, notably the charges brought in Nottinghamshire yesterday under the Riot Act.

2. On the general issue of options relating to the use of the law both criminal and civil you will recall that, following the discussion at last week's Cabinet (CC(84) 18th Conclusions, Minute 5), MISC 101 has asked the Attorney General, in consultation with the Home Secretary and involving the Secretaries of State for Energy, Scotland and Employment as necessary, to consider and report to the Group. I understand that he expects to do this within about one or two weeks. The effectiveness of the latest steps by the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire and the public reaction to them may provide useful pointers.

3. There are two other issues involving the law which may be discussed:

i. the civil actions by two Nottinghamshire pit branches against their area executive, and the national executive, seeking a declaration that there is no official strike in that area (if these actions were successful, it might give leverage to moderates in some other areas and assist the crumbling of the strike);

ii. reports that some pickets, (notably Mr Pitt, the Kent miners' leader) have been breaking the terms of their bail (press reports say that the police are looking into Mr Pitt's bail terms);

Next meeting

4. A meeting of MISC 101 has been arranged for 4.00 pm on Monday 21 May.

16 May 1984

RA
ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Lord Chancellor
has reported
on way
magistrates
courts are
dealing with
cases.
Minute
enclosed.

AT