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PRIME MINISTER

Coal: MISC 101(84)21st Meeting

After the usual reports you will probably wish to concentrate on:

- i. the latest assessment of the threat to deliveries to the steel works;
- ii. the options for dealing with this threat, if it proves effective, including civil action in the courts;
- iii. any evidence of a deterioration of coal or oil movements to power stations.

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In relation to ii. you will recall that the tentative conclusion at last Monday's meeting (MISC 101(84)20th meeting) was that, if rail deliveries to Ravenscraig and Llanwern were stopped, the BSC would need, initially at least, to attempt deliveries by road. If successful this might eventually ensure resumption of adequate rail deliveries, as was achieved earlier at Ravenscraig. If unsuccessful through NUM picketing, it would at least provide an opportunity for the BSC to bring injunctions against the NUM rather than the rail unions. Bearing in mind also the need to provide time for the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (whose Executive will not be meeting until Thursday) to declare their position and influence the rail unions locally, this suggests that very early recourse to civil action in the courts is <sup>un</sup>likely to be a sensible option for BSC.

Next meeting

2. There will be an opportunity for a further discussion under the Industrial Affairs item at Cabinet on 21 June.

P L GREGSON

19 June 1984

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