

Ref. A084/1848

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Industrial Affairs: Coal

You will wish to ask for the usual reports from:

- i. the Secretary of State for Energy on the number of pits and miners working and the NCB's efforts to accelerate the drift back to work;
- ii. the Home Secretary on law and order;
- iii. the Secretary of State for Transport on movements by rail and road of coal and oil, particularly to power stations;
- iv. the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the position of the British Steel Corporation (BSC).

2. You will recall two points from this morning's MISC 101 meeting:

- i. Mr Tebbit will not wish to say much about the BSC's attitude to civil action in the courts; any discussion should of course rest on the assumption that this is a matter for the BSC Board to decide, on the basis of full information and advice on all relevant considerations;
- ii. you indicated that you might wish to discuss with the Cabinet how the Government and the NCB could improve their efforts in communication in relation both to:
 - a. getting the miners back to work;
 - b. explaining to the public what is at stake and why it is necessary to stand firm.

Next Meeting

3. The next meeting of MISC 101 has been arranged for Monday 2 July at 5.00 pm.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

27 June 1984