

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

MR. GREGSON  
CABINET OFFICE

COAL STRIKE  
WAYS OF PROLONGING ENDURANCE

The Prime Minister asked Lord Weinstock, who was lunching with her on Wednesday, whether he had any ideas about measures to prolong endurance if the coal strike continued. Lord Weinstock telephoned me yesterday, having spoken to some people at GEC and to Sir Walter Marshall, with four ideas:

- i) Nuclear stations near completion should be accelerated;
- ii) Manufacturers should be brought together to ensure that oil power stations were maintained and promptly repaired, if necessary by taking in each other's equipment;
- iii) There were a number of gas turbines available around the country which should be brought into use for generating electricity;
- iv) The present penalty in the tariffs which local electricity boards applied to people who used their own diesel generators to supply their requirements for electricity should be suspended.

Lord Weinstock will be following up these points with the Secretary of State for Energy, and there is no need for you to follow them up yourself. But the Prime Minister would be grateful for your comments on the merits of these ideas.

E. E. R. BUTLER

20 July 1984

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Coal Strike: Lord Weinstock

Responding to your conversation with him at lunch yesterday, Lord Weinstock telephoned to say that he had talked to Walter Marshall and to his own people and had four specific ideas about prolonging endurance:-

- 1) Bringing into earlier operation nuclear stations near completion;
- 2) Getting the manufacturers together to ensure that oil power stations were maintained and repaired, if necessary by taking in each others equipment;
- 3) Using some gas turbines which are available around the country;
- 4) Removing the present penalty applied by Local Electricity Boards against using privately owned diesel generators to generate electricity.

Lord Weinstock said that he would put these ideas to the Secretary of State for Energy and let us know if he did not think that they were being adequately followed up. Meantime I suggest that I might get Peter Gregson's comments. Agree?

Yes not

F.E.R.B.

19 July 1984