

PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(84)35th Meeting

You will wish to deal with both the miners' and dockers' strikes separately.

Miners' Strike

2. You will wish to hear the usual reports from:-

i. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Energy

- on the current position in the coal fields;
- on any significant developments in the return to work;
- on the current position between the NUM and TUC in relation to next week's Conference in Brighton;
- on progress on the 'options' study (unless you think it better for this to be handled first in a more restricted group).

ii. The Home Secretary

- on law and order, and particularly how to accelerate court appearances and use of additional stipendiary magistrates;
- on police arrangements for the TUC in Brighton.

iii. The Secretary of State for Transport

- on coal movements.

Dockers' Strike

3. You will wish to hear reports from:-

i. The Secretary of State for Transport

- on the current state of ports at work or on strike;
- on picketing;
- on future prospects - especially at Tilbury and Felixstowe where votes are due today, and Dover (voting tomorrow).

ii. The Home Secretary

- on law and order and any problems of 'overstretch' for the police.

iii. The Secretary of State for Employment

- on any prospects for seeking a settlement of the dispute;
- on the likelihood of legal action against the TGWU.

iv. The Minister of State for the Armed Forces

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- on the prospects for service movements during exercises LIONHEART and BOLD GANNET.

General Issues

4. Depending on developments in the 48 hours since the previous meeting you may wish to review the line for Government spokesmen to take when commenting on:-

- the dockers' strike in relation to the miners' strike;
- the effects of withdrawn safety cover on the future of certain pits;



- either dispute in relation to the TUC at Brighton next week.

It will be particularly important to bear in mind the need to avoid providing "targets" for the strikers or excuses for the TUC to unite effectively against the Government.

Next Meeting

5. The next meeting of MISC 101 has been arranged for Tuesday 4 September at 2.30 pm - which should give an opportunity to discuss the outcome of the TUC debate on the NUM and associated motions (to be held on Monday 3 September) before your visit to Balmoral.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J F Stoker', is written above the typed name.

J F STOKER

29 August 1984