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P.01372

PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(84)36th Meeting

You will no doubt wish to divide up the discussion as follows:

- i. Mr Kinnock's request for a recall of Parliament;
- ii. coal;
- iii. docks.

Recall of Parliament

2. Both the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip have been invited specially for this topic, and one or both of them will be present.

Coal

3. After the usual reports (with the Group being particularly interested in the extent of the NUM's special picketing efforts at NCB sites this week, and any further evidence of a return to work) you will probably wish to focus discussion on:

- i. the TUC debate and resolution and their implications for:
  - the NUM's stance in negotiations;
  - deliveries of coal and oil to power stations;
  - financial and other support for the NUM.
- ii. The new round of NCB/NUM talks:
  - although you will wish to pursue this more privately later in the day, the rest of the Group will want to probe: \_\_\_\_\_

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(FLAGA)

See NCB  
Press Notice  
attached

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- the starting point for the new round of negotiations;
- the prospects for success on a basis which would be acceptable to the Government.

4. Various remits arising from last week's meeting of MISC 101 are being pursued:

- on stipendiaries there has, as you know, been an announcement;
- on the possible relaxation of planning consents to allow road movement at certain opencast sites, the Minister for Housing and Construction (Mr Gow) wrote to the Attorney General last Thursday;
- on the Clean Air Acts the Department of the Environment is now waiting for the Department of Energy to assess how far a relaxation of the requirements (for which there is a precedent) would in practice help to ease difficulties in the supply of solid fuel for space heating.

#### Docks

5. You will wish to have the latest reports on:

- the number of ports affected (is is reported today that Fleetwood has voted to return to work and that some dockers at Hull have met unofficially and voted to resume working);
- the extent and effectiveness of picketing at working docks (there appear to have been no pickets at Dover and Felixstowe today);
- the prospects for ending the dispute (eg by agreeing on acceptable arrangements for deliveries to Hunterston).

6. The effects of the strike are being monitored closely to assess whether it is likely that a situation will arise in the near future which would justify invoking the Emergency

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Powers Act of 1920. At present it seems unlikely that such a situation will arise. Work is however in hand to develop and improve the existing plans for Service assistance.

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7. As you will have seen from the Secretary of State for Defence's minute of 30 August to the Secretary of State for Employment, there appear so far to be no interruptions to the movement of troops and vehicles as part of the NATO exercises BOLD GANNET and LIONHEART.

#### Arrangements

8. A further meeting of MISC 101 has been arranged for noon on Friday 7 September.

9. You will no doubt wish to keep under review with the Secretary of State for Energy whether the daily information report on coal should continue to be circulated. He may consider it no longer necessary now that meetings of MISC 101 have resumed. Many members of the Group may however have found the reports helpful. One possibility would be to continue them for a few weeks more - say until the end of the Recess, on the grounds that Ministerial meetings during this period will be irregular.

*P L*

P L GREGSON

3 September 1984

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