

Ref. A084/2464

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Industrial Affairs: Coal and the DocksCoal

You will wish to ask for reports from:

- No let not observed.*
- i. the Secretary of State for Energy on:
 - the latest position on the NCB/NUM talks
 - pits and miners working
 - coal movements
(developing very well over the last 10 days;
there was a small increase last week in power station coal stocks for the first time);
 - ii. the Home Secretary on law and order;
 - iii. the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on:
 - the situation in the British Steel Corporation's major plants
 - effects on industry generally.

2. In summing up the discussion you will wish to establish how high a profile the Government should adopt in the media over the weekend, and the line to take.

Docks

3. You will wish to ask for reports from:
- i. the Secretary of State for Transport on:
 - the extent of the strike
 - efforts by port employers to get dockers back to work;
 - ii. the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the effects on industry;

iii. the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the effects on supplies of food and animal feedingstuffs.

4. The most likely subjects for discussion are:

i. any prospect of an arrangement at Hunterston acceptable to BSC which the TGWU could use as an excuse for calling off the strike;

ii. civil action in the courts;

iii. the line to take.

Next meeting

5. The next meeting of MISC 101 has been arranged for 4.00 pm on Monday 17 September.

Rx
Approved by
ROBERT ARMSTRONG
and signed in his absence.

12 September 1984