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PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(84)41st Meeting

Since the dock strike has now been called off, you will probably want to deal very briefly first with the docks and then spend the bulk of the time on coal.

Docks

2. After a brief report from the Secretary of State for Transport confirming that the calling off of the strike has been put into effect, you will probably wish to concentrate on:

- i. the line to take by Ministers and the BSC about the arrangements at Hunterston;
- ii. the latest information about any post-strike legal actions against the TGWU.

Coal

3. After the usual reports on pits and miners working, coal movements and law and order, you will probably wish to concentrate on the following:

- i. continued speculation in the media about the role of ACAS;
- ii. the latest moves by the TUC (whose Finance and General Purposes Committee will be meeting on Thursday) and by the unions in the electricity supply industry;
- iii. a new assessment of the strategic options for putting pressure on the NUM and accelerating the return to work, eg:

SECRET

33



SECRET

- loss of coal faces
(the Secretary of State for Energy promised to provide up to date information at MISC 101(84)38th Meeting on 10 September and we understand that he now has it)
- implementation of redundancies and pit closures;
- legal action;

iv. what action is in hand to avert a shortage of fuel for space heating (especially for industrial and commercial purposes) from October onwards (the Secretary of State for Energy promised to look into this at MISC 101(84)35th Meeting on 30 August and now has information available).

Next meeting

4. There will be the usual discussion under the Industrial Affairs item at Cabinet on 20 September. The next meeting of MISC 101 will be on Tuesday 25 September at 4.15pm.

PLG

P L GREGSON

18 September 1984

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