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PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(84)42nd Meeting: Coal

You will wish to hear reports from:

i. The Secretary of State for Energy on:

- the number of pits and miners working - especially any evidence of an increase in the rate of return to work; (Today the NCB announced that 1011 men were working in North Derbyshire. Previous totals were 960 yesterday, 905 on Monday, 840-860 in the first week of September, 675 just before the pit holidays began in July and 250 at the end of May.)
 - coal movements;
 - the NACODS strike ballot and progress in the NCB/NACODS talks, due to begin today;
 - the outcome of today's meeting of TGWU delegates from open cast sites about possible strike action over redundancy payments;
 - any progress in NUM and TUC efforts to get more effective support from other unions;
 - any developments in legal actions brought by working miners.
- (The High Court action in London involving Yorkshire miners is expected to end tomorrow.)

+ intimidation of witnesses

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- ii. The Home Secretary on:
 - law and order.

- iii. The Secretary of State for Employment on:
 - any developments in connection with ACAS involvement in the dispute.

Next meeting

2. In view of your commitments during the early part of next week a meeting of MISC 101 has been provisionally arranged for 10.00 am on Wednesday 3 October, with a further opportunity for discussion at Cabinet the following day.

P L GREGSON

26 September 1984

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