

COVERING SECRET

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Pre Minute

Andrew Turnbull Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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[Signature] 4/100

4 October 1984

Dear Andrew

POWER STATION ENDURANCE

I attach the latest report on endurance.

Copies also go to Margaret O'Mara and
Richard Hatfield.

Yours
John

J S NEILSON
Private Secretary

COVERING SECRET



POWER STATION ENDURANCE

1. Coal deliveries to CEGB power stations last week were 0.70 mt (including non-NCB sources), the best achieved since the start of the strike. Coal burn was 0.61 mt so that for the fourth week stocks have increased, by 0.09 mt. The Board's stocks last Sunday night were 14.7 mt with a further 0.9 mt at Scottish power stations.
2. Total NCB deliveries were 0.88 mt, of which about 0.23 mt went to customers other than power stations.
3. The average rate of coal deliveries to CEGB power stations over the whole period of the strike has been 0.47 mt per week. The average over the past eight weeks has been 0.56 mt.
4. The range of endurance outcomes is estimated by the CEGB as follows:

<u>Average coal deliveries</u>	<u>Oil burn (% of maximum)</u>	
	<u>90%</u>	<u>100%</u>
0.30 mt/week	late Jan	early Feb
0.35	end Jan	mid Feb
0.40	early Feb	end Feb
0.45	mid Feb	mid March
between 0.45 and 0.52	-	(see Note)
above 0.52	-	Autumn 1985

Note: Between 0.45 and 0.52 mt/week it is particularly difficult to forecast endurance with confidence. The margin needed to extend endurance from spring (March/April) throughout the summer is small, as Sir Walter Marshall has explained.

Department of Energy
3 October 1984