

SECRET

18/10 cc P Gregson

44 A

MW

PRIME MINISTER

Coal Dispute

I have researched further the possibility of a meeting at Chequers on Sunday to discuss the dispute. All the essential people could attend for a working supper (the Secretaries of State for Energy and Employment, Home Secretary, Attorney General, Mr. MacGregor, Sir Walter Marshall). The key question is whether a meeting on Sunday would be a productive use of time.

The following action is taking place. Mr. Walker has spoken to Mr. MacGregor. The latter was not keen to inject the Independent Review Body earlier into the procedure as he fears this would slow down management operations. I have sent you separately a copy of the Colliery Review Procedure which indicates this change may not really be necessary as the process of review is more or less continuous. Mr. MacGregor is, however, considering a side letter which would offer NACODS some reassurance. Though he has not finally decided Mr. Walker thinks the follow up action by Mr. McNestrey is probably better done by David Hunt. (All this assumes that we are dealing with reasonable men in NACODS who can be brought round by further discussion and argument). Though it is worth a further try on this premise I suspect the truth is that the Executive went some months ago into the Scargill camp and will not be coaxed out.

The second area of activity is on endurance. Peter Walker and Peter Gregson have discussed the options and Peter Gregson has set work in hand to complete the attached examination paper. It is comprehensive but would take a few days to complete - the middle of next week at the earliest. Both Peter Walker and Peter Gregson doubt whether it would be worthwhile having a weekend meeting without the results of this exercise. In any case, Peter Walker would

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prefer to go over the results with you first.

We have MISC 101 scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday. We could go ahead with the Tuesday slot and exert pressure to have the endurance exercise completed for discussion in a smaller group on Wednesday.

In the light of the above do you still wish to hold a meeting on Sunday?

Perhaps the following
Sunday would be better
mb

A.T.

18 October 1984

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10 DOWNING STREET

Andrew

I spoke to the PM. She does not want to get everyone together unless there is something useful to do. I think she has

two main concerns:-

i. Hitting the right note at
Question on Tuesday: MISC

101 on Tuesday morning should
help with that.

ii. Getting some information about
what is really going on. On
that aspect, if there were to be any
dinner on Sunday evening, it could
be smaller - e.g. P.W., MacGregor,
Walter Marshall, Gregson. But we

have authority to lay it off completely, and I leave it to you to take the final decision with Greggen this afternoon.

Looking at Peter's paper below I have 2 thoughts:-

- i. It does not cover the separate angle of sterner action towards strikers if the strike does not end before a certain date: presumably that is being pursued separately
- ii. We will need Ridley to cover the transport angle on Wednesday.

PERB