



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Prime Minister

Although some work has been done to answer Mr Gregson's examination paper, Mr Walker may prefer to go over the answers orally - perhaps showing you some charts and tables.

The meeting will be focussed on endorseance but before taking decisions on ~~the~~ some of the options you will want to involve Mr Burtan and Mr King at a further meeting.

AT
23/10

PROLONGING POWER STATION ENDURANCE

I. SITUATION IF NO NEW MEASURES ARE TAKEN

Assumption: worst case, i.e. all coal production ceases but it is possible for surface operations to continue at "working" pits so that existing stocks can be moved, and also for existing movement of opencast coal to continue.

How much stock is available and usable for power stations at these working pits?

What is maximum feasible weekly movement from stocks at working pits, and for how long?

What is maximum feasible weekly movement from opencast sites (under existing policy)?

Taking account of the above, what is best estimate of:

Total weekly movements
broken down by:
to power stations
to other customers.

II. MEASURES TO INCREASE COAL DELIVERIES TO POWER STATIONS

a. Imports

(i) What is available to CEGB at Rotterdam?

- what would be maximum weekly delivery to CEGB power stations within logistical constraints?
- how could the industrial relations risks (especially in respect of power station workers) be minimised?
- are we sure that the benefits outweigh the risks (e.g. to maximum oilburn)?

(ii) What imports could be brought in from other sources?

- what would be the timelag in making contracts and securing deliveries?
- what would be the maximum weekly delivery to CEGB power stations within logistical constraints?
- how could the industrial relations risks be minimised? (would roll on/roll off be feasible?)
- are we sure that the benefits outweigh the risks?

b. Pithead stocks at strike-bound pits

How much stock is available and usable for power stations at strike-bound pits?

What are the power stations to which these stocks would need to be moved?

(In particular:

are they in "striking" areas like Yorkshire?

would long road journeys be involved?)

What is maximum feasible weekly movement from strike-bound pithead stocks?

(In particular:

would workers be required at the pithead to load the coal, and, if so, where could they come from?

would the contractors and drivers at present moving coal from "working" pits be willing to move coal from strike-bound pits?)

Would a limited operation be worthwhile?

(i.e. secure just enough weekly deliveries to see us through the winter by concentrating on a few pithead sites).

What would be the attitude of power station workers?

Are we sure that the benefits outweigh the risks?

- c. Stocks at opencast sites which cannot be moved at present

How much stock is available and usable for power stations at opencast sites?

What are the constraints on more movements?
(e.g. planning restrictions, union opposition)

How could the constraints be relaxed?

What additional weekly delivery could be secured, how soon and over what period?

Are we sure that the benefits outweigh the risks?

- d. Diversion of coal to power stations for other customers

How much would be available for diversion each week?

Who gets the existing deliveries?

Which of these customers could be made to
take less without serious repercussions?

III. MEASURES TO MINIMISE COAL BURN IN POWER STATIONS

Can the CEGB do any more to increase

- nuclear
- oilburn
- gas
- generation by unorthodox measures

IV. MEASURES TO REDUCE ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

What options are available?

- voluntary economies
- voltage reduction
- restriction on less essential
uses (display lighting, etc)
- rota cuts
- 3 day week
- any others

What would be percentage saving from each measure?

What would be effect on extending endurance if introduced at various times?

Any measures available to counter Scargill's "Switch on at Six" campaign?

V. MEASURES TO MAINTAIN COAL PRODUCTION

How far can NCB monitor production by using NUM members with safety certificates, BACM members, etc.?

VI. ASSESSMENT

Which measures are likely to bring most benefit with least risk?

At what stages should they be activated?

18 October 1984