

Ref. A084/2304

MR TURNBULL

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Ministerial Group on Coal (MISC 101)

The Secretaries have had a request from the office of the Secretary of State for Wales that he should become a member of MISC 101.

2. I minuted the Prime Minister about the composition of MISC 101 on 12 March 1984. The composition approved by the Prime Minister in your minute to me of 12 March 1984 included the Secretary of State for Scotland, but not the Secretary of State for Wales. The Secretary of State for Scotland was included because of his responsibility for electricity in Scotland.

3. Because of the nature of the subject, and unusually for a MISC Group, a formal membership was established for MISC 101, with written invitations for those invited to serve. Ministers who are not members, including the Secretary of State for Wales on a number of occasions, have been invited to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis when matters within their responsibilities have been due to be discussed. We have thought it both right on general grounds and in accordance with the Prime Minister's wishes to avoid any general broadening of the membership of the Group.

4. We propose, if you agree, to tell the Secretary of State for Wales's Private Office that it is not possible to extend a standing invitation to him on the basis he has requested, though the arrangements described in the previous paragraph will continue and will allow him to attend on an ad hoc basis when the subject requires.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

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9 November 1984