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PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(84)48th Meeting: Coal

You will wish to ask for report from:

- i. the Secretary of State for Energy on
 - the number of pits and miners working;
(today's figure for those returning to work appears likely to be a few hundred higher than last Monday's record figure)
 - *impact on coal production*
 - coal movements;
 - any moves to restart negotiations by the TUC, church leaders, etc.

- ii. the Home Secretary on
 - law and order
(there have been violent incidents reported again from the Yorkshire coalfields, away from the pitheads; there was apparently considerable damage at the NCB's Coal Exploration Unit at Doncaster and it is alleged that police were unable to respond to an alarm call from there).

- iii. the Attorney General on
 - the progress of the sequestrators.
(it is understood that he has given an indemnity orally to the sequestrators and that he will be able to report to the Group on the financial arrangements in the event that the indemnity is called)

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2. In discussion you may like to pursue the following main points:
- i. how to sustain the return to work after the end of this week;
 - ii. the tactics being pursued in handling NACODS members in newly opened pits;
(the difficulties which arose in Scotland appear to have been resolved amicably; how is the NCB proposing to avoid similar problems in future, while ensuring that increased coal production is not unduly delayed?)
 - iii. the prospects for moving pithead coal stocks from pits where a substantial number of miners are now working.

Next meeting

3. The next opportunity for a discussion will be under the Industrial Affairs item at Cabinet on Thursday 22 November. The next meeting of MISC 101 has been arranged for Monday 26 November at 11.00am.

PLG

P L GREGSON

19 November 1984

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