

SECRET

P.01454

PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(84)50th Meeting: Coal

You will wish to ask for reports from:

- i. the Secretary of State for Energy on
 - the number of pits and miners working
 - current relations between the NCB and NACODS
 (press reports suggest that only 53 out of 5000 deputies in Yorkshire are at work and 44 of these are at one pit, Manton; it has also been suggested that NACODS may not accept the 5.2 per cent pay offer for 1984-85 accepted by BACM)
- ii. the Home Secretary on
 - law and order
- iii. the Secretary of State for Employment on
 - TUC activity in support of the NUM
- iv. the Attorney General on
 - progress in the legal actions against the NUM
 - developments over the fine imposed on the TGWU
 (the deadline for payment is Monday)
 - the prospects for the action brought by a striking miner challenging the deduction for supplementary benefit from deemed strike pay

Y/asked NUM

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Independent advisory body

2. Since this will probably be the last MISC 101 meeting chaired by you before Christmas, you may wish to ask the Secretary of State for Energy whether (as requested at MISC 101(84)48th meeting on 20 November) he has yet been able to explore the NCB's thinking on the independent advisory body which, as agreed with NACODS, is to be part of the colliery review procedure. What kind of people would be members, what would be their terms of reference and how would their advice fit into the existing procedure?

Next meeting

3. There is a slot for MISC 101 provisionally set aside in your diary for 9.30 on Wednesday 12 December but, unless there are serious developments, I presume you will be content to have the next discussion under Industrial Affairs at Cabinet on Thursday 13 December. While you are away next week we have arranged for the Lord President to chair a meeting of MISC 101 on Tuesday 18 December at 11.30am.

PLG

P L GREGSON

7 December 1984

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