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PRIME MINISTERMISC 101(85)2nd Meeting: Coal

You will wish to invite reports from:

i. The Secretary of State for Energy on

- ✓ - the number of pits and miners working.
- coal movements and power station coal stocks in the first full post Christmas/New Year holiday working week.
- ✓ - NACODS pay negotiations following the NACODS/NCB meeting on Friday 11 January.
- likely developments following the NUM NEC meeting on Thursday 10 January.
(There are three matters of particular interest)

a. The proposed attendance of the complete NUM NEC at any future negotiations with the NCB.

b. The possible expulsion of the Nottingham Area from the NUM at the end of the month. Although a split of this magnitude might be useful in undermining the cohesion of the NUM the removal of moderate Notts Area representatives could strengthen Scargill's position on the National NEC. The Notts Area Council were due to meet on Saturday 12 January to decide on their attitude.

c. Reports that NUM members at Ashington Colliery in Northumberland are considering a return to work if negotiations with the NCB are not resumed by 21 January.

*Opposedly
Scargill.
App. withdrawn
Under no circumstances with
change position
No point in negotiations.*

ii. The Secretary of State for Employment on

- the possibility of any further move by the TUC in the light of the outcome of the NUM NEC meeting.

iii. The Home Secretary on

- law and order.

iv. The Attorney General on

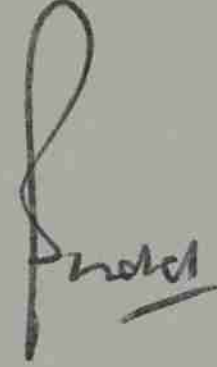
- recent developments in the High Court.
(Press reports on 10 and 11 January suggested that the High Court Receiver might soon gain control of the NUM £4 million in Luxembourg and that the NUM might now be in a position to use some of their £2.7 million in Dublin to finance continuing efforts to regain full control of their funds. In addition High Court actions were due on Friday 11 January involving 20 Welsh miners challenging the legality of mass picketing and the National Working Miners Committee attempting to prevent NUM Executive members from taking further actions to sustain the strike.)

v. The Secretary of State for Transport on

- likely support for the one day strike called by the NUR/ASLEF at certain depots in the Eastern and London Midland areas of British Rail for Thursday 17 January. Is there a risk that, if BR take action under the 1984 Trade Union Act, because the strike has been called without a ballot, more widespread industrial action might occur?

Next Meeting

2. There will be an opportunity for discussion under Industrial Affairs at Cabinet on Thursday 17 January.



BRIGADIER J A J BUDD

11 January 1985