

68

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PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(85)3rd Meeting: Coal

You will wish to invite reports from:

- i. the Secretary of State for Energy on:
 - the number of pits and miners working (it will be particularly interesting to hear about Ashington where there was a decision to go back to work if talks had not resumed by 21 January but where Mr Scargill made a special visit at the end of the week);
 - movements of coal and oil (despite the strike it appears that 27 coal trains moved last Thursday including 21 to Midland power stations, only a few less than the normal recent daily average; it would be useful to hear more about the possible blacking of lighting-up oil in the large Yorkshire power stations; it seems however that support by power station workers for Mr Scargill at Didcot and elsewhere has continued to decline);
 - the latest moves by other sections in the NUM (Leicestershire and the clerks (COSA)) to support Nottinghamshire in breaking away from the NUM nationally;
 - the tactics to be used by the NCB if the NUM takes a more constructive attitude to talks following its National Executive meeting on Thursday 24 January;
 - the NCB's thinking about the composition and operation of the new Colliery Review Advisory Body (before Christmas Mr Walker promised to have something to say about this by early January).

NCB should play hard to get while return to work is going well, and should insist that any approach from the NUM should be in writing.



SECRET

- ii. The Home Secretary on:
- law and order
(there were some signs at the end of the week of isolated attempts to renew violence, notably in Wales and South Yorkshire).
- iii. The Secretary of State for Transport on:
- BR's handling of the rail unions
(an assessment of last Thursday's industrial action; BR's position on taking the unions to court; and the chances of further industrial action in the future).
- iv. The Attorney General on:
- the latest developments on the civil actions
(in particular, has the Receiver yet managed to take control of the £5.2 million in Luxembourg?).

Next meeting

2. There will be an opportunity for a further discussion under the Industrial Affairs item at Cabinet on Thursday 24 January. The next meeting of MISC 101 will be at 4.15pm on Monday 28 January when we shall be putting on the agenda a paper by officials, which has just been circulated, containing the information about financial assistance given to the NUM by local authorities (MISC 101(85)1); the Secretaries of State for the Environment and for Wales have been invited to attend that meeting.

PLG

P L GREGSON

18 January 1985