

Ref. A085/625

PRIME MINISTER

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Cabinet: Industrial Affairs: Coal

You will wish to invite reports from:

i. the Secretary of State for Energy on:

the number of miners and pits working;

coal production and movements;

likely developments in the return to work now that more than 50 per cent of NUM members are no longer on strike;

likely outcome of forthcoming NUM meetings; the NEC is due to meet on Thursday; area meetings in the South Wales and Durham coalfields are to be held on Friday;

the likelihood of other areas following the Notts lead in abandoning the overtime ban;

ii. the Secretary of State for Employment on the prospects of any further action by the TUC to achieve a settlement of the strike;

SECRET

iii. the Secretary of State for Transport on:

prospects for the movement of coal by rail following BR's decision to approach that part of their workforce involved over the heads of their unions;

the significance of the recent sailing of three coal ships from the North East for future movement of coal by sea;

iv. the Home Secretary on law and order;

v. the Attorney General on significant developments in the Courts (charges of unlawful assembly against 21 Yorkshire miners were dropped in Nottingham Magistrates Court on 26 February and it is reported that similar charges against a further 60 men will shortly be dropped).

2. A meeting of MISC 101 has been arranged for Monday 4 March at 10.00 am.

RTA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

27 February 1985

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