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P.01508

PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(85)9th Meeting: 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 last week;
- outcome of the NUM Delegate Conference on 3 March (at the time of writing S.Wales, Durham and Lancashire areas of the NUM were reported as prepared to recommend an immediate return to work without a settlement);
- NCB plans for dealing with the situation that would face them if NUM members returned to work without a settlement  
(it may be a little early for this but careful handling will be required throughout the industry particularly in the cases of those NUM members dismissed for offences committed during the strike and NACODS. It was reported on 28 February that NACODS members were refusing to supervise Nottinghamshire miners working overtime - thus preventing an effective lifting of the overtime ban. Possible options for NUM guerilla warfare were described in The Times on 1 March);
- ways of further increasing the numbers returning to work if the strike is not called off  
(are any further financial or other incentives possible or desirable?);

ii. the Secretary of State for Transport on:

- any significant developments in the prospects for rail or sea movement of coal;

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iii. the Home Secretary on:

- law and order

iv. the Attorney General on:

significant developments in court actions  
(it may be too soon to ask him about the dropping  
of charges in Nottinghamshire, which he undertook  
to look into at last Thursday's Cabinet; the  
Chief Constable is now to be sued for damages for  
wrongful arrest).

2. There will be an opportunity for discussion under the  
Industrial Affairs item at Cabinet on 7 March. The next  
MISC 101 has been arranged for Monday 11 March at 5.00pm.

*PLG*

P L GREGSON

1 March 1985

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