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OFFICIAL GROUP ON COAL

LESSONS OF THE MINERS' STRIKE - DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ASPECTS

Note by the Secretaries

Attached is material provided by the Department of Energy for discussion at the Group's meeting on 2 April. The material comprises:

- A detailed chronology of events - Annex A
- Details of negotiations carried out during the strike - Annex B
- Details of NCB coal production - Annex C
- Details of NCB coal despatches - Annex D
- Details of NCB and Power Station Coal Stocks November 1983 to March 1985 - Annex E
- Details of the return to work - Annexes F and G
- Estimated costs of the strike - Annex H

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Signed J A J BUDD
J E ROBERTS

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Cabinet Office
27 March 1985



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ANNEX A

COAL STRIKE EVENTS

March 1984

1. Announcement of Cortonwood closure.
2. Announcement of Bullcliffe Wood Closure.
3. South Yorks branch meeting on striking.
5. Yorks NUM called for indefinite strike.
6. Coal industry national consultative meeting.
Output reduction put to union by NCB.
Scottish NUM called for area strike.
8. National Executive Committee of the NUM sanctioned strike on an area by area basis.

12 First day of strike.

- 13 Yorks NUM Executive Committee voted to send pickets to other areas.
- 14 NCB granted high court injunction against Yorkshire NUM flying pickets. First picket (David Jones) died, at Ollerton (Notts)
- 15 NUM Yorkshire Executive voted to continue picketing.
Home Secretary's statement on picketing.
- 15/16 Majority of NUM ballots held.
- 19 Court adjourned motion for contempt of NCB injunction against Yorkshire NUM.
- 20 Kent miners applied for injunction against the police for stopping traffic through the Dartford Tunnel.
- 23 Lancashire Area NUM called for area strike to last for one week only unless national ballot called.
- 27 Meeting of moderate members of NUM National Executive Committee.
- 28 Debate in House on redundant mineworkers' payment order.
25% oil burn enhancement and selected coal stock protection implemented.
- 30 Lancashire Area NUM decided on return to work from 2 April. Midland Area issued one week strike call.

April

4. 50% oil burn and further coal stock protection implemented at CEGB Power Stations.



April (cont.)

- 10 Emergency Commons debate on policing the miners' dispute.
- 11 75% oil burn and further coal stock protection implemented at Power Stations.
- 12 NUM National Executive meeting ruled out immediate ballot.
- 18 Available oil burn enhanced to maximum at CEEGB Power Stations.
- 19 Special delegate conference of NUM. Amendment made to rules reducing the majority needed for a strike (to 50%)
- 26 Full endurance regime implemented at CEEGB Power Stations.

May

- 1 Nottinghamshire 'Right to Work' rally at Mansfield, 8,500 workmen and 1500 striking miners in attendance.
- 2 BSC announce activation of emergency measures to bring in extra coal to Ravenscraig.
- 9 Scottish TUC Day of Action: little impact.
- 11 Agreement between mining, steel and rail unions to provide surplus coal for Ravenscraig.
NUM NEC decided to cancel Annual Conference, to lobby foreign embassies and to halt coal imports.
- 14 Mr Scargill tells Mansfield Rally that his aim is downfall of Tory Government. Attendance estimated at 8000 (police) and 45,000 (Mr Scargill).
- 16 Stan Orme met Mr Scargill to attempt mediation,
- 18 18 working miners at two Notts pits (Pye Hill and Sherwood) taken out of injunction against NUM leaders declaring industrial action Notts official.
- 20 Mr Scargill met foreign union leaders in Paris.
- 21 Lancashire Executive of the NUM suspended union membership of 1000 miners.
Stan Orme met Ian MacGregor.
First scheduled NCB/NUM meeting cancelled after NUM insist on precondition that NCB withdraw pit closure programme.
- 22 A regular 6 monthly meeting between NCB Board and NUM NEC taken at Hobart House. Board made a presentation on the industry. The NUM demanded withdrawal of closure programme. Meeting broke up, no discussion.



May (Cont)

- Derbyshire NUM suspended working miners indefinitely.
- 23 First NCB/NUM meeting at Hobart House. Unproductive. Board wrote to NUM offering talks on Plan for Coal. 7000 pickets at Orgreave coke plant attempt to stop lorries taking coke to Scunthorpe.
- 30 Scargill arrested at Orgreave - given unconditional bail. 3000 pickets.
- 31 Second NCB/NUM meeting in Yorkshire. Mr MagGregor not present. Meeting described as 'cordial' by NUM.

June

- 4 Adjournment Debate on strike. Dave Nellist MP.
- 5 Heavy picketing continues at Orgreave (4000 pickets). Men return for first time at Bilston Glen (Scotland).
- 6 Leak of BR pay negotiation documents.
- 7 Debate in House on coal industry dispute. Mr Benn said Government will be defeated.
8000-10,000 miners march through London. Lobby Parliament. Over 100 arrests in Parliament Square.
- 8 Third NCB/NUM meeting - in Yorkshire, agreement to hold further talks.
- 12 TUC Day of Action in Wales.
- 13 Fourth NCB/NUM meeting at Rotherham. Broke up acrimoniously. Both sides presented plans for the future of the industry.
- 14 NUM NEC confirmed they have no intention of holding a national ballot.
- 15 TUC Day of Action in North-East.
- 18 NUM 'invaded' Betteshanger colliery in protest at planned return by 2 men and remained for 2 days.
- 19 Overload at Grain and Littlebrook D Power stations implemented.
- 20 Miners began blockade of 5 main BSC plants.
Bilston Glen (Scotland) produced some coal for first time in dispute.
- 21 Steel workers reject miners' demand to halt production.
MacGregor wrote to all miners.
- 26 Justice Caulfield ruled that Lincs. NUM could not call official strike without official ballot.

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April (cont.)

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- 18 18 working miners at two Notts pits (Pye Hill and Sherwood) took out injunction against NUM leaders declaring industrial action illegal. Notts official.
- 20 Mr Scargill met foreign union leaders in Paris.
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June (Cont)

- 27 London NUR one-day strike in support of miners.
43 Kent miners dismissed for occupation of Tilmanstone.

July

- 2 Oil overburn at Tilbury and Blyth Power Stations implemented. TUC Steel Committee decided not to accede to NUM's request for a halt to steel production.
NUR conference.
- 4/5 Fifth NCB/NUM meeting in London lasted for 9 hours.
- 9 Sixth meeting of NCB/NUM in London - both sides tabled draft agreements.
Main disagreement centred on NCB's use of word 'beneficially' in their criteria for keeping open pits.
- 10 First 1984 dock strike began.
- 11 NUM extraordinary delegate conference in Sheffield decided to demand high court ruling by agreeing to new rule 51 giving union leadership increased powers to expel, suspend or discipline members.
- 18 Seventh NCB/NUM meeting in London broke down after 13 hours. Vice Chancellor Sir Robert Megamy ruled that NUM's new rule 51 "void and of no effect". NUM ignored ruling.
- 21 First dock strike over.
- 27 (week ending) Media coverage of 'Silver Birch' encouragement of miners who wished to return to work.
- 30 South Wales NUM fined £50,000 for contempt.
- 31 Debate in House on the Estimates, PM's speech and Mr Lawson's comments about strike being 'a good investment'.

August

- 1 Gas turbines at six CEBG stations operating over peak load period. Oil overburn implemented at West Burton, Cottam and Rugeley B power stations.
- 3 NCB Board agreed to leave their final offer to the NUM on the table for the time being.
- 10 NUM special delegate conference endorsed their leaders' rejection of last NCB offer. Agreed to change NUM's rule 51 which provides

August (Cont)

- for increased disciplinary powers over members who flouted union rules.
- 15 Gas supplied for main generation at Hams Hall Power Station.
- 17 Ballot at Haig on whether to join strike. Votes: 106 against, 37 for.
- 20 Oil overburn implemented at Ironbridge and Willington power stations.
- 22 Scargill/MacGregor debate on Channel 4.
3 miners from Lea Hall win High Court order reinstating them as branch NUM officials.
- 24 T & GWU National Docks Delegate Conference voted 86 to 6 for an immediate national dock strike over the docking of the "Ostia" at Hunterston.
- 27/28 Loss of Polkemmet. All 4 production faces lost as colliery is flooded following NUM withdrawal of safety cover after men return.
- 30 NUM and TUC officials met in advance of TUC Congress.

September

- 1/2 Robert Maxwell acted as mediator to try to get both sides together.
- 3 TUC Congress opened. Pledge of "total support" for miners.
Working miner at Easington granted injunction preventing disciplinary action by union.
- 9 Talks between NUM and NCB begin in Edinburgh.
- 10/12 Talks continued in Selby, moving to Doncaster.
Arguments centre on basis for closure of collieries.
- 12 NACODS NEC voted to ballot all members, recommending a strike on 3 issues: the Board's cutback in capacity, its attitude to conciliation procedures, and the 15 August guidelines requiring NACODS members to make attempts to cross picket lines before qualifying for pay.
- 13 NUM National Executive Committee.
- 14 NUM/NCB talks resumed in London at 10.30 and broke down 5 hours later - no agreement.
- 21 TUC agreed to mount campaign to raise funds for NUM.
- 24 Mr MacGregor met TUC to give background on latest talks.



September (Cont)

- 24 Officials of ACAS made first contact with both sides.
- 25 Oil overburn implemented at Didcot power station.
- 26 Delegate Conference representing T & GWU men at opencast sites agreed to ballot members on moving opencast coal .
NACODS met NCB.
- 28 Result of NACODS ballot declared: 82.5% in favour of strike action. Justice Nicholls gave rulings in North Derbyshire and Yorkshire cases brought by working miners, and declared strike unlawful.

October

- 1 Labour Party Conference.
Writ served on Mr Scargill and 4 other NUM leaders for contempt. Labour Party Conference passed motions giving full backing to the strike and condemned "organised violence" by the police.
- 2 Contempt hearing: adjourned until 10 October.
- 1/2 NCB met NACODS for total of 7 hours; discussions on the three parts of the NACODS ballot paper. NACODS suggest independent arbitrator on pit closures.
- 1 NACODS met ACAS to discuss proposal for independent arbitrator.
- 5 ACAS met BACM - who suggest new plan for coal.
- 6/7 NUM met ACAS - to discuss independent arbitrator.
- 8 NCB met ACAS.
Conservative Party Conference.
- 10 Fines imposed on Mr Scargill (£1000) and NUM (£200,000). Orders not made until 15 October.
- 11 NUM and NCB began discussions at ACAS; NACODS also in building. Mr Scargill claimed to have accepted proposal which was later shown to be resume of NUM position.
- 12 ACAS table independent proposal on third party arbitration; accepted by NCB.
- 15 ACAS talks end; NUM and NACODS refuse to accept ACAS proposals. Grimthorpe police station attacked following arrests for stealing coal.
- 16 NUM National Executive Committee met and reaffirmed continuation of strike; also met TUC - regular weekly meetings envisaged to co-ordinate TUC support policy.



October (Cont)

- NACODS National Executive gave notice of strike action to start at 6am on 25 October.
Mr Scargill's fine paid anonymously.
- 20/21 Michael Eaton appointed.
- 22 TGWU members decided after a ballot not to move stocks of opencast coal - no immediate action taken.
House returned; Secretary of State's statement.
- 23 Talks resumed at ACAS between NACODS and NCB. TUC and NUM participated later in the day. Agreement reached between NCB and NACODS.
- 24 NACODS strike called off unconditionally.
Final date for payment of NUM £200,000 fine.
- 25 Sequestration of union assets ordered.
NCB/NUM talks resumed at ACAS HQ; adjourned after 10 hours until 31 October.
- 28 Sunday Times carried NUM/Libya story - NUM Chief Executive Roger Windsor met Colonel Gaddafi.
- 31 Talks resumed at ACAS and broke up after 10 hours - no progress made.

November

- 1 Writs served to make NEC members individually responsible for fine. NEC meeting: decided on special delegate conference and 5 rallies, and not to hold a national ballot or expand union negotiating team to include entire executive.
- 4 Dublin High Court froze £2.7m NUM funds in Ireland.
- 5 NUM Special Delegate Conference voted to continue strike.
Start of renewed return to work.
BACM meet NCB.
Lighting up oil deliveries established to Drax, Eggborough and Fiddlers Ferry Power Stations.
- 6 First NUM rally in Edinburgh.
- 8 Bersham ballot, 154 vote to continue strike, 145 voted to work and 62 who were already back refused to vote.
NUM rally in Sheffield.
- 11 NUM rally in Newcastle.
- 12 Renewed picket line violence in Yorkshire.



November (Cont)

- 13 NUM rally in South Wales; Norman Willis shouted down.
- 14 Price Waterhouse obtained court order freezing £4.63m of NUM funds in Luxembourg.
NUM rally in Birmingham.
- 15 NUM national executive decided on new publicity campaign in mining communities. Mr Scargill visited Russian Embassy to encourage further support for miners.
Lighting up oil deliveries established in Aberthaw B Power Station.
- 16 5,032 ex-strikers returned to work in the week.
- 19 NCB Geological Exploration Unit at Cadeby, S Yorks, destroyed by vandals. Damage estimated at £250 thousands.
- 20 North Wales NUM executive said they can no longer support the strike as so few men remained on strike.
Coal flow to Brighton and Didcot power stations established.
- 21 Archbishop of York and other church leaders met officials of NUM in attempt to get talks restarted.
- 23 5,959 ex-strikers returned to work during the week.
- 27 Bailiffs attempted to serve orders on NUM officials as they left TUC HQ.
Messrs McGahey and Heathfield met TUC. Talk of renewed attempt to bring NUM and NCB together.
- 29 NUM appealed successfully against the court order of 14 November which froze £4.63 m of NUM funds in Luxembourg bank.
NUM national executive committee meeting. Mr Scargill said he was unable to give details of union's meeting with TUC because he was not present.
- 30 David Wilkie murdered driving working miner to Merthyr Vale colliery.
- 30 2,159 ex-strikers returned to work in the week.

December

- 3 NUM Special Delegate Conference voted to refuse assistance to receiver and not to purge the union's contempt.
NUM asked TUC to call emergency meeting of General Council. Instead day long meeting of NUM/TUC liaison group took place.



December (Cont)

- 5 Mr MacGregor said in lunch time lecture that selling pits to the miners was a good idea.
- 7 Herbert Brewer replaced by Michael Arnold as receiver.
Striking miner given leave to pursue case challenging reduction in benefits for striking miners.
- 7 668 ex-strikers returned to work in the week.
- 11 Coal flow to Uskmouth power station established.
- 12 First coal production in Yorkshire since start of dispute.
- 14 Peter Walker met TUC coal liaison team.
- 14 521 ex-strikers returned to work in the week.
- 17 TUC Liaison Committee decided on no further initiatives on their part before the new year.
- 19 NUM attempted to gain High Court injunction preventing meeting of Nottingham Area NUM (unsuccessfully).
- 20 Nottinghamshire Area NUM voted to change Area rules to end their subordination to the National Executive as from 1 January.
- 21 174 ex-strikers return to work in the week.
- 29 Peter Walker ruled out possibility of any power cuts in 1985.

January 1985

- 3 Heating broke out at Seafield colliery (Scotland).
- 4 (week ending) 712 ex-strikers returned to work.
- 10 NUM NEC decided: (i) to exclude Notts area from the union unless it reconsiders recent rule change, Special Delegate Conference planned for 29 January to vote on decision (ii) to enlarge the union negotiating team to include all the NEC.
- 11 20 S.Wales working miners made first attempts to obtain injunction limiting the number of pickets at collieries.
- 11 (week ending) 2,365 ex-strikers returned to work.
- 12 Notts Area NUM Executive met. Mr Richardson, Area General Secretary suspended from all posts.
- 14 Henry Richardson stripped of all official union poses. S. Derbyshire area NUM Executive announced support for decisions taken by Notts area and decided to ballot members. Leicestershire also decided to vote on breakaway.

January (Cont)

- 15 NACODS walked out of Coal Industry National Consultative Committee protest at 'the Board's attitude over the resumption of negotiations with the NUM'.

After winning temporary injunction against his dismissal, Henry Richardson allowed to continue as area agent but remained otherwise suspended.

- 16 NACODS Executive called off all talks with the NCB at national level until the Board agreed to negotiate with the NUM, also decided to hold a ballot on NCB's 5.2% pay offer.

Taxi driver taking miners to 6 Bells Colliery, (S.Wales), injured by stone thrown through car window.

European Parliament decided to set up inquiry into policing of the miners' strike.

- 17 24-hour Rail strike in protest at alleged victimisation of staff blacking movement of coal trains. Intended for Midlands area only but SE also affected.

Maximum system demand ever met by CEGB, 46,215 MW.

- 18 (week ending) 2,870 ex-strikers returned.
- 20 Highest weekly CEGB oil burn, 561,000 tonnes.
- 22 Peter Heathfield, Mick McGahey and Ned Smith met for informal talks on the possibility of resumed negotiations. NUM then met the TUC monitoring Committee. Mr Scargill stated NUM's willingness to talk 'without preconditions'.
- 23 Peter Walker met British Council of Churches. S. Wales working miners began court action to limit picketing.
- Attempt to organise breakaway union in Yorkshire failed.
- 24 Peter Walker met Welsh Council of Churches. NUM NEC met and expressed dissatisfaction with NCB's demand that the union give a written indication that the would discuss uneconomic capacity. Mr Scargill met leaders of S. Derbyshire NUM.
- 25 Secretary of State for Scotland met Scottish TUC leaders.
- 25 (week ending) 3,386 ex-strikers returned.
- 28 Reduction of oil burn started at Didcot - coal burn regime returned to normal.

January (Cont)

- 29 Mr Spanton and Mr Heathfield resumed exploratory talks. Mr Heathfield then reported back to NUM leaders and TUC.
- 30 NUM NEC met - agreed not to give Board a written undertaking on uneconomic capacity. Board indicated that there appeared to be no basis for renewed substantive discussion.
- Following receipt of NUM's £4.9m funds in Luxembourg the Receiver paid £200,000 fine imposed on NUM for contempt.
- 31 NUM NEC met again. Mr Willis of TUC reported to NUM that he had been in touch with the NCB to try and restart talks.
- Receiver and Sequestrator pursued NUM's £2.7m in Dublin. Case adjourned.

February

- 1 NCB Board met, no basis for renewed negotiation seen. NUM approached ACAS.
- NACODS executive met to discuss position of their October agreement with NCB. 85 MP's put names to EDM calling for an amnesty for dismissed miners.
- 1 (week ending) 1,596 ex-striker returned.
- 3 The only producing face at Frances (Scotland) lost as a result of a severe heating.
- 4 Opposition Day debate. 2,332 ex-strikers returned. NUM and NACODS leaders met ACAS separately.
- NUM reported back to TUC. NACODS met the NCB.
- 5 Pat Lowry informed NCB of results of Monday's talks with the union. NACODS NEC met and agreed following ballot results to accept 5.2% pay offer for 1984/85.
- 6 Coal flow from Yorks. coal-field to Midland power stations started. The largest of 3 producing faces at Seafield lost due to heating.
- 7 NUM NEC met, with NACODS present. Joint statement issued calling on Board to resume negotiations without preconditions.
- A reported suggestion by S.Wales and Yorkshire areas for a mass return to work without a settlement was not acted upon.
- 8 (week ending) 3,775 ex-strikers returned. BR moved over 240 coal trains, the highest number since last summer.

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February (Cont)

- 11 TUC SE and Kent NUM, Day of Action: picketing of power stations and Hobart House. Mr Justice Scott granted injunction on behalf of working S.Wales Area NUM to contest decision.
- 12 Injunction granted, again by Mr Justice Scott, restricting pickets to 6 at 11 Yorkshire collieries. Yorkshire Area decided to comply with injunction.
- 13 Peter Walker met leaders of NACODS.
- 14 Following negotiations between Mr Willis (TUC) and Mr MacGregor. TUC invited NUM Executive to discuss proposals agreed between TUC and NCB for a resumption of negotiations.
- 15 TUC-NUM-NACODS meeting - proposals rejected by NUM and NACODS. (2,175 strikers return in the week).
Coal flow to Aberthaw power station commenced.
- 16/17 NUM approached ACAS-no initiative forthcoming. NUM-NACODS pickets at TUC Headquarters throughout weekend. Mr Willis met Mr Cowie reported back to NUM/NACODS: no agreement.
- 18 TUC called for meeting with P.M to secure resumption of negotiations. Meeting arranged for 19 February.
S.Derbyshire NUM voted in favour of rule changes giving Area increased autonomy from National Executive.
Mr Justice Nicholls refused to end sequestration order freezing the NUM's assets, and stated that the Sequestrator's rights took precedence over those of the Receiver. The Receiver had wanted the lifting of the Sequestration Order.
- 19 TUC met P.M. and other Ministers. Positive Discussion. Peter Walker conveyed outcome of meeting to NCB.
- 19/20 TUC met Peter Walker.
NCB met TUC.
NUM NEC met addressed by Mr Willis. NUM reject proposals.
- 21 NUM Special Delegate Conference in London backed Executive decision to reject Board's latest proposals; called for a continuation of the strike and negotiations without preconditions.
- 22 Board saw no prospect of resumption of negotiation. Acceleration of return to work. More than 456 in day, 2261 in week.
- 23 Peter Walker issued statement calling on miners to return to work.
- 24 NUM rally in central London. 15 arrests.

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February (Cont)

- 25 Record return to work by 3,807 ex-strikers. Over 550 in S.Wales. 49% of NUM members no longer on strike.
Notts NUM Area Council voted 20-11 for an immediate end to the overtime ban.
NUM Executive Committee met TUC Liaison Committee for 7 hours.
- 26 Accelerated return to work continues. 1,349 new faces on the morning shift.
South Wales NUM area executive met. Further pressure expected for an organised return to work in the Area.
- 27 1,342 ex-strikers returned taking the number of NUM not on strike over 50%.
Northumberland Area NUM discussed organised return to work in that Area. No decision reported.
- 28 1,123 ex-strikers returned 51% of NUM not on strike. NUM National Executive Committee met in Sheffield. Special Delegate Conference to be held on Sunday 3 March to discuss a mass return to work without an agreement.

March

- 1 1,631 ex-strikers returned (over 1,000 in Yorkshire) 52% of NUM members not on strike.
NUM Area delegate conferences in S.Wales and Durham decide to recommend return to work at Special Delegate Conference on 3 March.
- 2 Lancashire Area NUM voted to recommend return.
- 3 NUM Special Delegate Conference voted for end to strike and mass return on Tuesday 5 March. Scotland and Kent refused to accept decision until NCB promised a general amnesty.
- 4 Statement on end of strike by Peter Walker: confirmed no general amnesty. 1059 new faces, over 52% not on strike. Scottish and Kent Area meetings confirmed decision to carry on strike until a general amnesty.
- 5 Mass return; about 60,000 new faces. 85% not on strike. No return in Kent, only about 56% attendance in Scotland. (The Fife coalfield largely strike bound.) Yorkshire attendance adversely affected by Kent pickets, about half back. Most other areas an orderly return.

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March (Cont)

- 6 A further 18,000 new faces. Only 10,000 (5%) still on strike, more in Scotland (3,600) in the Fife pits. Yorkshire (2,000) and Kent (1,700) Scottish Area NUM voted to return to work from 7 March.
- 7 Numbers on strike fell below 7,000 (4%). 2,400 remain on strike in Scotland (Longannet, Bogside, Castlehill and Comrie). Yorkshire only 1 pit strike-bound Markham (1,300 strikers) and Kent 1,700. NUM and NACODS under ground at all 3 Kent pits for first time since start of strike.
- NACODS Midland Area votes to supervise weekend overtime work in Notts.
- NUM NEC voted to continue overtime ban, pressed for a general agreement and maintained position on pit closures.
- 8 Only 6,100 remaining strikers (3%) Only one pit (Markham Yorks) idle. 100 pits producing coal.
- 9 Kent Area NUM vote to return on Monday 11 March.
- 11 Only 1000 (½%) remaining strikers. (800 at 2 Scottish pits) NUM accuse NCB of 'lock out' at Comrie (Scotland). Remaining strikers in Scotland (Polmaise) voted to return.
- 12 All NUM men back.

Date/Place	Parties	Commentary
23 May Bobart House	NCB/NUM	Follow up letter from Mr Spanton to Mr Heathfield (22/5) confirming Board ready to discuss at any time without preconditions, principles of Plan for Coal.
31 May Yorkshire	NCB/NUM	Mr MacGregor not present. Atmosphere "cordial". Agreement to hold further meeting.
8 June Scotland	NCB/NUM	Mr MacGregor told press "there was a clear understanding between himself and Mr Scargill who understood his role of having to protect the British Taxpayer." Discussion described as useful - a degree of realism shown. A number of areas explored. Agreed to hold further meeting.
13 June Rotherham	NCB/NUM	NUM insist no closures except on grounds of exhaustion and safety. Mr Scargill complains of belligerent attitude of Board. Puts forward proposals for four day week and early retirement. NCB reiterated no compulsory redundancies. Expressed willingness to discuss revision of Plan for Coal with unions.
5/6/9 July London	NCB/NUM	Both sides produced draft agreements. Main differences were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) NUM insistence on withdrawal of 6 March proposals; Board agreed to reexamine; (ii) NUM called for 5 pits to be kept open; Board said "subject to further consideration"; (iii) Argument over further mineable reserves. Introduction by Board of "beneficially". 2 papers discussed at NUM NEC on 10 July and at Special Delegate Conference on 11/12 July.
18 July	NCB/NUM	Previous day Mr MacGregor said Board was to table draft agreement which showed no substantial change from earlier papers. Both sides table discussion documents based on the outcome of previous talks - ie 6 March proposals to be re-examined and 5 collieries to remain in operation. NCB tighten up definition of exhausted pit. After breakdown of talks Mr MacGregor said he was ready to meet NUM anytime if they were genuinely interested in a settlement.

Date/Place	Parties	Commentary
9-14 September Edinburgh/ Doncaster/ London	NCB/NUM	Board gave an assurance that Clause 3(c) did not imply new procedures for colliery closures. NUM reiterated that closures could only take place on grounds of exhaustion or safety. Board tabled revised 3(c) which said pits should be closed exhausted where following investigation by the Board's and the union's engineers, further investment of human and financial resources could not be justified. Rejected by NUM. Both sides tabled further revisions; paragraph 1 of 3(c) agreed and only outstanding difference was wording of second paragraph. On last day NUM reneged agreement on paragraph 1.
11/12/15 October ACAS	NCB/NUM NACODS also in building	Paper tabled outlining NUM position. Paper tabled outlining NCB position. Single ACAS proposal tabled including provision for either side to raise for discussion closure of any pit not covered by exhaustion or safety criteria to be discussed in line with principles of Plan for Coal and Colliery Review Procedure which would be amended to include as a final stage an independent review body which would consider a reference from any of the parties in a disputed closure. Full weight would be given to the advice of the Review Body. NCB accepted this wording; the NUM rejected it.
23 October ACAS	NCB/NACODS TUC and NUM participate later in day	NCB/NACODS continue discussions on basis of earlier ACAS proposal, including independent review body, re-examination of 6 March proposals in light of changed circumstances, and undertaking to keep open 5 pits and that their future would be the subject of consideration under the Colliery Review Procedure. NACODS accept and call off strike.
25 October ACAS	NCB/NUM	Talks continue for 10 hours again on basis of ACAS proposal. No agreement reached. Talks adjourned until 31 October.
31 October ACAS	NCB/NUM	Talks collapse after 10½ hours. Atmosphere described as tense in view of NUM allegations about the existence of a North East "Hit List".



THE LAST ROUND OF TALKS: JANUARY 1985

- 1) 21 January: Messrs Heathfield, McGahey and Ned Smith met for introductory talks on the possibility of resuming negotiations. After the meeting the NCB stated that nothing from the discussions brought negotiations any nearer. Their requirement remained that the NUM show some realism about the question of uneconomic capacity. The NUM met the TUC Liaison Committee. Mr Scargill offered talks "without pre-conditions".
- 2) 24 January: Peter Heathfield wrote to Ned Smith asking for a further meeting before which the union could prepare a number of points for consideration. The union reaffirmed its willingness to talk without preconditions.

: The NCB issued a statement that in any negotiations the NUM must address the problem of uneconomic capacity.
- 3) 25 January: Mr Spanton wrote to Mr Heathfield suggesting a further informal meeting on 29 January to establish the 'parameters of the discussions' in advance of any final negotiations.
- 4) 29 January: Further exploratory talks between Mr Spanton and Mr Heathfield, after which Mr Heathfield reported back to the NUM Executive and the TUC.

: Mr Heathfield wrote to Mr Spanton referring to the NUM's 'new initiatives' which could lead to a settlement, and calling for renewed negotiations.

: NCB issued a press release identifying uneconomic capacity as the "principal issue".
- 5) 30 January: Mr Spanton wrote to Mr Heathfield asking for clarification of NUM's 'new initiatives' and making clear that any settlement must address the problem of uneconomic capacity.



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- : Mr Heathfield replied to Mr Spanton attaching a five point note around which the NUM would discuss a settlement (the Plan for Coal, the future of collieries, the five collieries, the March 6 proposals, and an amnesty).
- 6) 31 January: Mr Spanton replied to Mr Heathfield making clear that there was no agreement on the points put forward by the NUM. In particular the question of a general amnesty had been rejected and the NUM had failed to address the problem of uneconomic capacity. He saw no basis for a resumption of talks.
- 7) 1 February: Mr Heathfield replied to Mr Spanton expressing disappointment at the Board's position, expending on the five points attached to the letter of 31 January, and affirming that the NUM stood ready to begin negotiations if the Board changed its mind.
- : Mr Spanton replied to Mr Heathfield expressing some encouragement at the NUM's latest letter, but again requesting an indication of movement by the NUM on the question of uneconomic capacity. The Board undertake to study the NUM letter and write to the NUM in the following week.
- : NCB issued statement saying there are no grounds for a resumption of negotiations until the NUM indicated a willingness to discuss the problem of uneconomic capacity. NCB reaffirmed their commitment to the NACODS agreement.
- : NACODS issued statement saying the NCB's position vis a vis the NUM threatened their agreement of October 1984 with the Board seeking a meeting with the Board.
- : Peter Walker issued statement confirming the NCB-NACODS agreement.
- 8) 4 February: NCB issued statement indicating that the problem of uneconomic capacity remained unresolved following the NUM's letter of 1 February and warning against raising false hopes of a settlement.



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- : NCB meet NACODS to discuss the state of their October agreement.
- : NUM and NACODS meet ACAS separately.
- 9) 5 February: NCB issued statement reporting that no new negotiations with the NUM were contemplated following the visit of the ACAS Chairman to the NCB. No indication received of change in NUM position.
- 10) 7 February: NUM National Executive Committee meets with NACODS present, joint statement issued calling on the Board to resume negotiations without preconditions.
- : NCB issued statement reaffirming their agreement with NACODS, expressing surprise at NUM's request that ACAS set up an independent inquiry and ruling out any prospect of meaningful negotiations with the NUM in view of their unchanged position on uneconomic capacity.
- 11) 14 February: Following negotiations between NCB and TUC. TUC leaders invited NUM to discuss the basis for a settlement agreed between NCB and TUC.
- 12) 15 February: NUM/NACODS/TUC meeting to discuss TUC-NCB Document. Proposals rejected by NUM and NACODS. NCB released statement indicating their acceptance of TUC-NCB document.
- 13) 16 February: NUM approached ACAS again.
- : NCB issued statement giving binding assurances to NACODS regarding their joint agreement.
- 14) 16/17 February: NUM and NACODS present at TUC HQ throughout the weekend. NUM sought changes to TUC-NCB document. Mr Willis met Mr Cowan and reported to NUM and NACODS.
- : NCB issued statement saying the TUC-NCB document was "fair, reasonable and final" and calling on NUM to accept it.
- 15) 19 February: TUC leaders met Prime Minister and other Ministers to seek further modification of original document (mainly para. 5: modified review

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procedures and para 6: closure of collieries and reference to the body). TUC agreed an amended version of the document to be a final settlement to the dispute and not an agenda for further negotiations between NUM and NCB. Peter Walker reported outcome of meeting to

16) 19/20 February: Talks resumed between Peter Walker and TUC. Agreement reached on revised document. Mr MacGregor wrote to Mr Willis indicating NCB approval of final document.

17) 20 February: Mr Willis presented final document to NUM National Executive Committee. NUM reject revised document as worse than original.

18) 21 February: NUM Special Delegate Conference confirmed union rejection of final TUC-NCB document.

WEEK ENDING	DEEP MINED	OPENCAST	LICENSED	TOTAL
1984				
17 MAR	425	295	26	746
24 MAR	466	284	24	774
31 MAR	451	248	97 (inc end yr adjustment)	796
7 APL	455	297	20	772
14 APL	472	335	20	827
21 APL	445	265	20	730
28 APL	263	51	46 (end month adjustment)	360
5 MAY	424	303	25	752
12 MAY	374	241	20	635
19 MAY	453	320	25	798
26 MAY	429	255	25	709
3 JUN	101	237	20	358
10 JUN	461	292	20	773
17 JUN	444	290	20	754
24 JUN	468	280	20	768
1 JUL	453	274	20	747
7 JUL	399	303	20	722
14 JUL	420	287	20	727
21 JUL	413	257	20	690
28 JUL	255	168	25	448
4 AUG	242	195	20	457
11 AUG	396	291	20	707
19 AUG	450	304	20	774
25 AUG	464	267	20	751
1 SEP	280	238	20	538
8 SEP	489	294	20	803
15 SEP	528	299	20	847
22 SEP	479	260	20	759
29 SEP	515	261	20	796
6 OCT	528	265	20	813
13 OCT	518	298	20	836
20 OCT	531	285	20	836
27 OCT	532	260	20	812
2 NOV	553	274	20	847
9 NOV	561	238	20	819
16 NOV	563	238	20	821
23 NOV	587	256	20	863
30 NOV	592	267	20	879
7 DEC	592	277	20	914
14 DEC	617	277	20	992
21 DEC	639	333	20	992
28 DEC	(not available)	-	-	-
	40	1	10	51
1985				
5 JAN				354
12 JAN	330	9	15	935
19 JAN	648	262	25	927
26 JAN	634	268	25	946
2 FEB	668	253	25	1,000
9 FEB	718	257	25	1,044
16 FEB	749	269	26	1,038
23 FEB	726	286	26	1,094
2 MAR	766	302	26	1,103
9 MAR	781	296	26	1,168
	828	292	28	

NCB DISPATCHES: BY SECTOR (OOO TONNES)

W.E. 1984	17/3	24/3	31/3	7/4	14/4	21/4	28/4	5/5	12/5
CEGB	595	491	465	309	258	307	188	359	306
SSEB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BSC	10	10	-	5	8	1	15	27	25
DOMESTIC	38	34	41	36	49	55	27	47	35
INDUSTRIAL	99	133	104	94	114	107	84	134	113
SHIPMENTS	60	72	56	23	27	35	5	8	5
OTHER	14	20	33	28	30	23	18	35	26
TOTAL	816	760	698	525	485	524	338	609	509

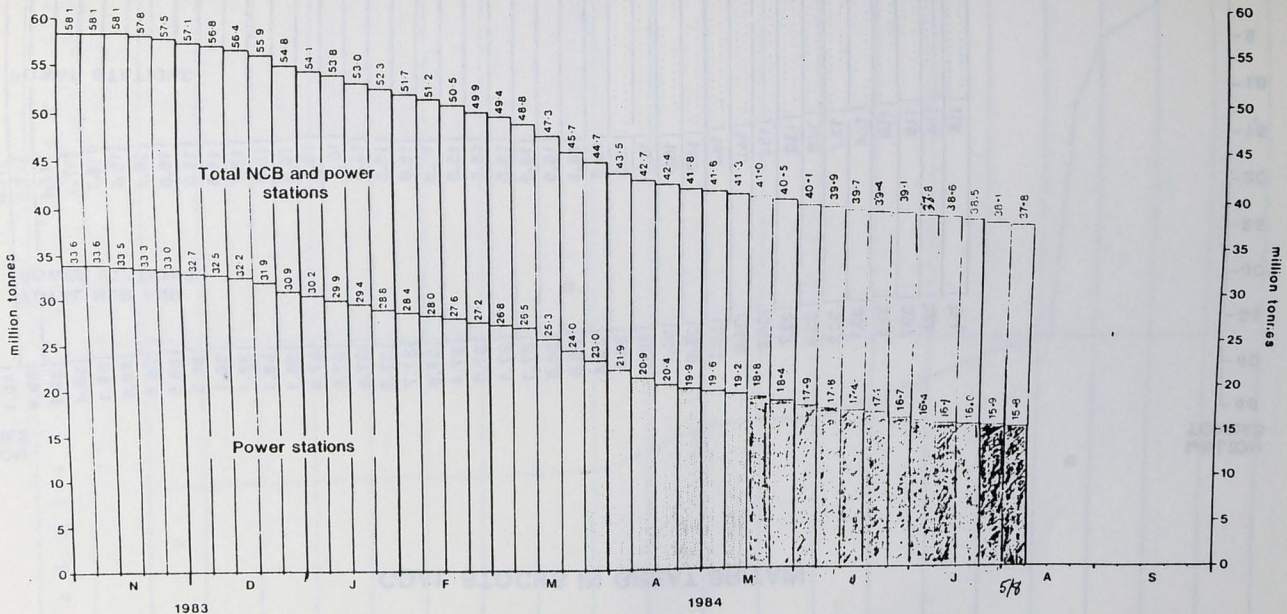
W.E	19/5	24/5	3/6	10/6	17/6	24/6	30/6	7/7	14/7	21/7	28/7	4/8	11/8	18/8	25/8	1/9	8/9	15/9	22/9	29/9	6/10	13/10
CEGB	423	450	197	459	442	420	415	423	441	472	501	359	402	419	446	353	537	601	1,150	645	637	631
SSEB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BSC	28	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	5	4	4	4	4
DOMESTIC	45	46	13	47	46	46	45	42	41	33	17	25	38	45	47	29	37	46	43	50	50	53
INDUSTRIAL	135	148	47	129	129	132	123	126	120	113	79	72	93	103	95	75	113	121	112	125	127	128
SHIPMENTS	-	6	0	5	-	-	-	2	2	-	5	7	2	3	3	6	7	8	10	10	8	12
OTHER	41	38	16	39	37	42	42	50	44	54	28	27	43	40	38	37	43	48	48	49	49	49
TOTAL	672	704	279	679	654	640	635	643	618	672	510	490	578	610	630	500	743	829	848	883	875	877

W.E	20/10	27/10	2/11	9/11	16/11	23/11	30/11	7/12	14/12	21/12	28/12	4/1	11/1	18/1	25/1	1/2	8/2	15/2	22/2	1/3	8/3	15/3
CEGB	669	630	681	674	661	660	671	644	674	631	45	308	617	554	603	589	607	559	648	671	841	1100
SSEB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	110
BSC	4	2	2	2	2	5	5	4	4	-	-	3	5	7	7	7	7	7	8	7	9	20
DOMESTIC	56	54	63	65	63	66	74	74	76	74	3	27	73	75	78	84	84	75	87	90	93	115
INDUSTRIAL	132	149	134	134	147	143	145	145	140	136	8	54	138	144	139	148	146	133	161	164	145	143
SHIPMENTS	9	11	13	21	24	28	12	21	14	11	0	4	26	21	16	19	17	32	31	15	16	34
OTHER	41	43	52	58	57	51	51	62	58	61	0	31	60	66	67	71	73	65	67	62	70	68
TOTAL	911	889	940	954	954	953	958	950	906	917	56	427	919	867	900	916	924	871	1,002	1,000	1,225	1562

33-69
inside 2/1/84

COAL STOCKS IN GREAT BRITAIN

ANNEX E

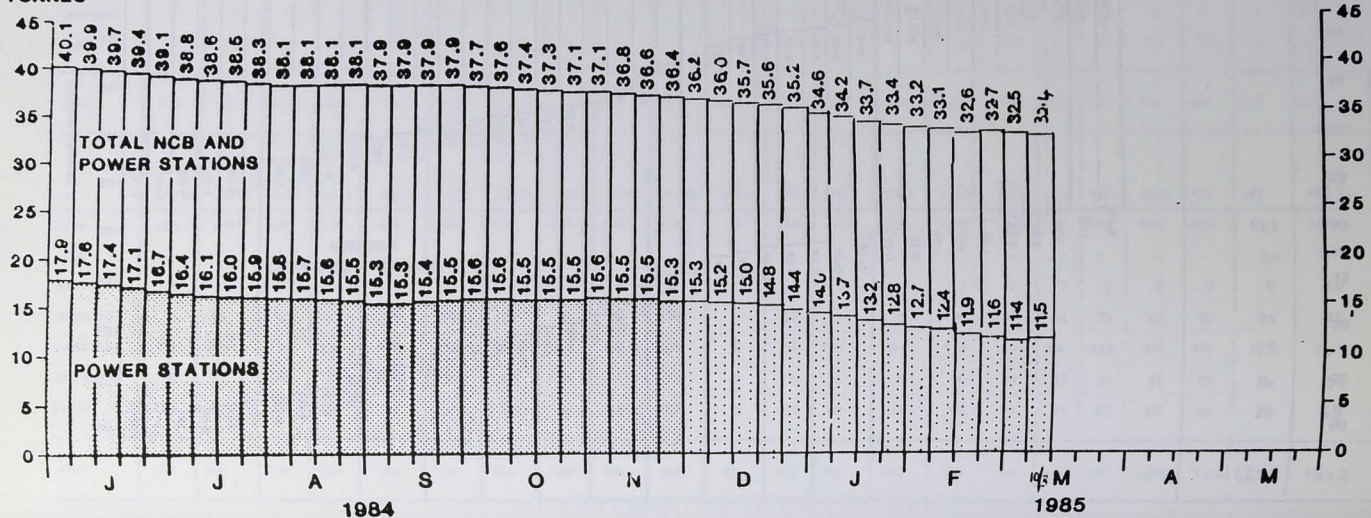


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COAL STOCKS IN GREAT BRITAIN

MILLION TONNES

MILLION TONNES

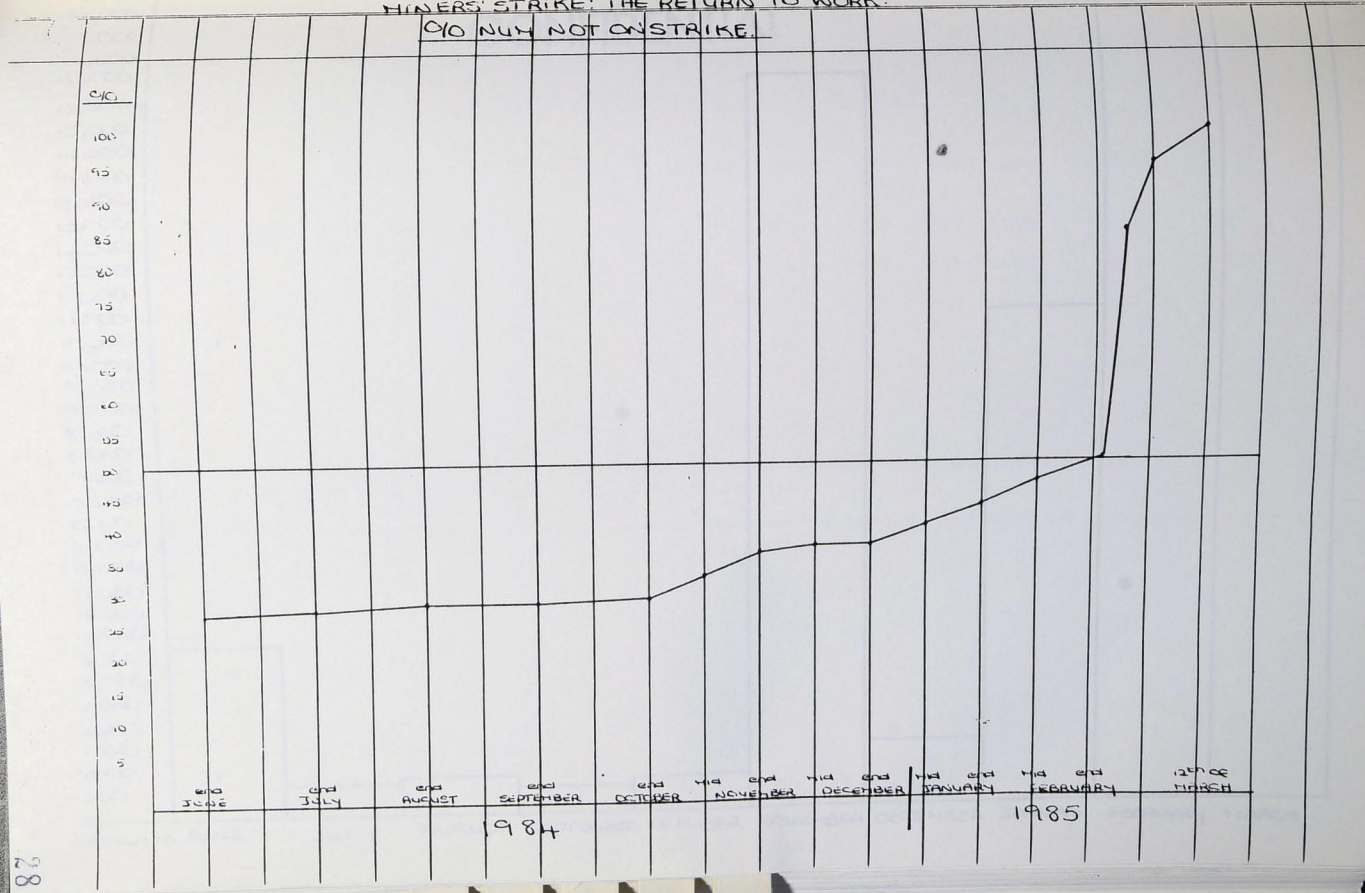


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MINERS' STRIKE: THE RETURN TO WORK

ANNEX F

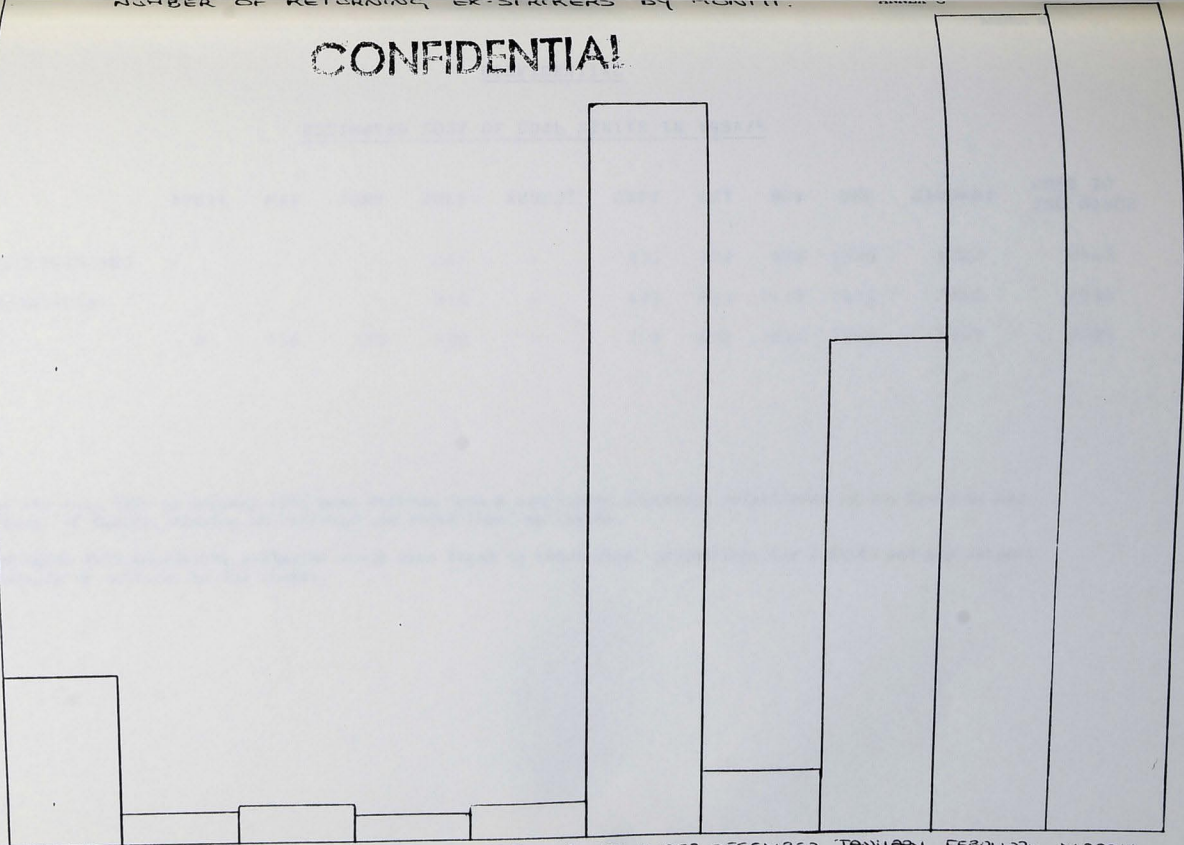
90 NUM NOT ON STRIKE



NUMBER OF RETURNING EX-SMOKERS BY MONTH

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16,000
17,500
17,000
15,500
16,000
15,500
15,000
14,500
14,000
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MARCH - JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH

CONFIDENTIALESTIMATED COST OF COAL STRIKE IN 1984/5

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JANUARY	COST TO END MARCH
NI EXTERNAL FINANCING				245	-	537	712	978	1305	1722	2443
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE				315	-	697	897	1117	1417	1845	2590
TOTAL PSBR	0	150	300	400	-	777	1002	1230	1546	1922	2685

1. Figures for July 1984 to January 1985 were derived from a monitoring procedure established by the Treasury and the Department of Energy, drawing on official and industries' estimates.

2. The end March 1985 cumulative estimated costs were based on industries' projections for 1984/85 and are subject to the checking of outturns in due course.