

DSC

File



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has been told by the Chairman of the National Coal Board that the transfer of planning consents for mining and opencast operations from the Department of Energy to the Department of the Environment is causing considerable difficulty and delay. The Prime Minister mentioned this to the Secretary of State for Energy and he suggested to her that, while the operation has been transferred, no formal transfer of functions order has yet been made.

H/

The Prime Minister has asked whether you could advise her on the present position, and whether there is scope for reversing this transfer of responsibility from the Department of Energy to the Department of the Environment.

FERB

28 March 1985

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