

~~Draft News Release~~

DISCUSSIONS ON MODIFIED COLLIERY REVIEW PROCEDURE

NCB and Unions Agree to Joint Sub-Committee

The National Coal Board and the Industry's Trade Unions, today (Thursday) agreed to establish a joint sub-committee to discuss a modified Colliery Review Procedure.

This was decided at a special meeting of the Coal Industry National Consultative Council.

When a modified colliery review procedure was agreed between the Board and NACODS last October, it was also agreed that the other Trade Unions should be invited to become involved.

The three unions - NUM, NACODS and BACM - today each agreed to nominate two representatives to join three representatives from the NCB on the sub-committee.

NCB Chairman Mr. Ian MacGregor, who presided at the CINOC meeting, said arrangements would be made to call an early meeting of the joint sub-committee.

COAL PAY TALKS

AFTER THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE TODAY, THE NCB SAID:

"The NCB repeated their 5.2% pay offer to mineworkers from Nov 1, 1983, when they met the NUM at today's meeting of the industry's JNC.

"The Union accepted this offer. It will increase grade rates by between £6.80 a week for the highest grade of underground worker and by £4.90 for the lowest grade of surface worker.

"The Board then offered an increase of 5.2% on grade rates from Nov 1 1984.

"This would further increase grade rates by between £7.15 pw for the highest paid underground worker and £5.15 for the lowest grade of surface workers.

"The NUM stated that this offer would be considered by their NEC next week.

"After the two increases offered, the weekly grade rates would range between £144.25 for the highest grade of underground workers and £104.15 for the lowest grade of surface worker.

"Similar increases were accepted by NACODS and BACM.

"Deputy Chairman James Cowan, who led the negotiating team said it was essential to increase efficiency and productivity and return the industry quickly to normality after all the damage caused by a year of strike action."

NCB tell us that after the meeting, Scargill said that his JNNC members would recommend acceptance of the 1983 rise. NCB said they took this as acceptance, and therefore were making the 1984 offer.

At the JNNC, the NUM asked for bathing and changing allowances (47p per shift) to be consolidated into grade rates. NCB undertook to reply before next week's NUM NEC meeting (probably Tuesday).

mg/NCB April 11 1985