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AT

31/5

Prime Minister

LESSONS OF THE 1984/85 MINERS' STRIKE

Sir Robert Armstrong sent me a copy of his minute of 20 May covering a note from the Chairman of the Official Group on Coal (MISC 57) on the lessons of the 1984/85 miners' strike.

I endorse the points for follow-up action listed at the ends of sections 2, 3 and 4 of the note by officials.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Lord President, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Energy, Defence, Scotland, Wales, the Environment, Trade and Industry, Employment and Transport and the Attorney General, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

L. B.

31 May 1985

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NPPM
AT 30/5

PRIME MINISTER

LESSONS OF THE 1984-85 MINERS' STRIKE

Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 20 May invited endorsement of the matters identified for follow-up action in the report of the Official Group on Coal (MISC 57). I am pursuing those relevant to my Department, and I am otherwise content with what is proposed.

I am copying this minute to the Lord President, Home Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Energy, Defence, Scotland, Wales, the Environment, Trade and Industry and Transport, the Attorney General and Sir Robert Armstrong.

T K

30. May 1985

CONFIDENTIAL



cc - Miss Turton
H. Butler (No 10) } minute
only

70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A085/1446

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Until last year the Secretary of State for Energy was responsible, under the Opencast Coal Act 1958, for authorising opencast coal mining by the National Coal Board and issuing deemed planning consent. The arrangements were changed from April 1984, since when local authorities have been dealing with National Coal Board applications, and the Secretaries of State for the Environment, Scotland and Wales have exercised statutory powers under the Act.

2. The Prime Minister asked me to consider the case for reversing the transfer of responsibility following comments made to her by the Chairman of the National Coal Board, suggesting that the transfer was causing difficulty and delay for the Board.
- I attach a copy of the minute which I have sent to the Prime Minister in response to her request.
3. She said that she would like to discuss this matter with you, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Secretary of State for Energy, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Wales to all of whom I am sending copies of this minute and of my minute to her of 21 May. Her Private Office will be in touch with yours about arrangements for a meeting.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

29 May 1985

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