



cc: Mr Duguid
G.V. Mochinson 2
P.M. Austin

Re note.

Re
7/11

Handwritten signature or initials.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

MOVEMENT OF COAL TO POWER STATIONS

At E Committee on 16 October you asked me for a report on the movement of coal by rail to power stations.

About 80% of power station coal is transported by rail. The British Railways Board has agreed to give priority to this traffic and has undertaken to move 62 million tonnes to CEGB power stations in 1979/80. By 15 October, 40.1 million tonnes had been moved - about 0.8 million tonnes above the planned figure and 3.6 million tonnes more than in the same period last year. This global figure masks shortfalls in some areas, but overall the picture is encouraging and I understand that the CEGB are very satisfied with the Railway Board's performance. The Board's ability to maintain its performance, however, and to improve further on the planned level of carryings depends to a significant extent on the NCB mining sufficient coal and on the arrival of the proposed coal imports.

My Department has been receiving regular reports from the Railways Board and will continue to monitor progress.

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I am sending copies of this minute to other members of E Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'N. Fowler'.

NORMAN FOWLER
7 November 1979

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