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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

14 October 1985

**RESTOCKING OF CEGB POWER STATIONS**

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's minute of 8 October about restocking of CEGB power stations and has noted that the CEGB will fall a little short of the presently planned stock target for the end of October.

(DAVID NORGROVE)

Geoff Dart, Esq.,  
Department of Energy.

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PRIME MINISTER

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Agree to write?  
D&S 8/10.

MS

## RESTOCKING OF CEGB POWER STATIONS

You should be aware that it is now looking increasingly likely that the CEGB will fall a little short of the presently planned stock target for the end of October. Stocks at the power stations on Sunday 29 September were 20.5mt, some 0.3mt below the planned amount. This trend looks likely to continue until the end of October. While over the stockbuild period coal deliveries have exceeded original expectations, recently deliveries have fallen below target as readily accessible coal stocks have been depleted. However, these extra deliveries have been more than offset by coal consumption which has been significantly higher than originally estimated, being affected both by increased demand and by a reduced contribution from the nuclear stations.

The CEGB's present view is that stocks on Sunday 27 October (the end point of the present programme) should reach 22mt, a shortfall of some 0.9mt on the planned target. However, stockbuild will continue into November and the Board hopes to achieve roughly 23mt by the middle of November which amounts to a slippage of two weeks or so. All available steps are being taken to maximise the flow of coal, including continuing imports of electricity from Scotland and the highest possible flow of NCB coal from the North East and imports from the Rotterdam stockpile into the Thames-side stations.

In spite of this short-term slippage, the CEGB sees no difficulty at present in being able to meet the stock target of 22mt at the end of March which we agreed at our meeting on 24 July. A detailed delivery programme is currently being drawn up by the Board, in consultation with the NCB. My Department will be monitoring that programme closely during the winter months.

MS

*[Signature]*

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY



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