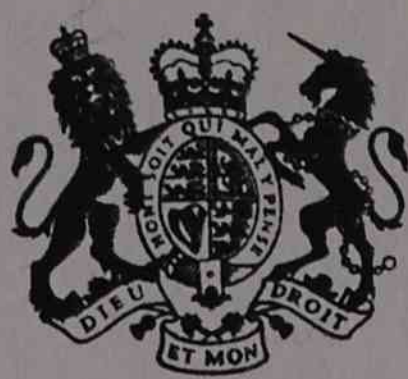


CAT

17



file

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary.*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

SECOND REPORT ON LESSONS OF THE MINERS' STRIKE

The Prime Minister was grateful for your minute of 25 November, covering the second report on lessons of the miners' strike. She has noted that other colleagues are content with its conclusions.

The Prime Minister has two comments.

First, the report refers to the problems which might be caused by multi-issue ballots and cites the NACODS ballot of September 1984. The Prime Minister believes there is a risk that a multi-issue ballot might be used again with the intention deliberately to confuse, and has asked whether action could be taken in advance to stop this.

Secondly, the report says the Widdicombe Inquiry is expected to report in late spring next year on matters relevant to local authorities' scope to provide financial assistance to strikers and their families. The Prime Minister has asked whether the Government should anyway be looking towards legislation on this early in the 1986/87 session.

The Prime Minister is otherwise content.

I am copying this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Home Secretary, Secretaries of



State for Energy, Defence, Scotland and Wales, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Secretaries of State for Transport and Employment, and the Attorney General.

*DNS*

DAVID NORGROVE

20 December 1985