

PRIME MINISTER

COLLIERY CLOSURES

You saw earlier in the week the minute from John Wakeham (Flag A) setting out his proposals on handling the next round of colliery closures.

As you requested I have now fixed up a meeting with John Wakeham, the Chancellor, Michael Howard, Peter Walker and Nick Ridley: this takes place on Monday afternoon.

I also now attach a note by George Guise (Flag B), in which he supports the view of British Coal management that the latest position does justify a change in the colliery closure procedures.

The central issue to settle is whether you accept the case John Wakeham has put forward. You will obviously want to discuss with colleagues the industrial relations aspects of all this.

In the light of the conclusion on the main point, issues to consider include:

- whether and if so when you should see Haslam yourself. You were minded to think you should see him;
- the question of a successor to Haslam. This is not covered in John Wakeham's minute, but his thoughts on the possibilities are summarised in my earlier note immediately below.

Recd.

(PAUL GRAY)

30 March 1990

c:\wpdocs\economic\colliery.dca