CONFIDENTIAL Col. Il. Prime Minister COLLIERY CLOSURES: INDEPENDENT REVIEW BODY NYTECARD at frof Following our discussion on Monday I have now seen Bob Haslam and explained to him the view that the Government has reached on the Corporation's proposed approach to the next colliery closure round. While he understands our position, he nevertheless feels strongly that he should meet you as we had originally suggested so that he can argue his case in person. I hope that we can therefore now arrange such a meeting shortly after Easter. While the object of the meeting will be to try to persuade him to continue with the Corporation's previous approach of seeking closures on a pit-by-pit basis to the greatest possible extent we will also need to bear in mind the risks associated with imposing on the Corporation a course of action that they do not believe in. It would also be helpful to use this opportunity to try to progress the question of Bob Haslam's successor as Chairman of British Coal. I indicated to you my preference when we met, but it would be useful to allow Bob Haslam to put his views on this matter in front of you. You might possibly wish to have a further word with me about this before the meeting. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY 4 April 1990 CONFIDENTIAL

NAT, ND Coal P121