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P.01441

PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(84)49th Meeting: Coal

You will wish to invite reports from:

- i. the Secretary of State for Energy on
 - the number of pits and miners working;
(the Friday figure - 877 by lunchtime - appears to have been particularly good for that day of the week but it will be important to see whether the expiry of the qualification for bonus - except in Scotland and South Wales - is reflected in a low figure for new starters on Monday)
 - coal movements;
 - new financial incentives;
(what is the timing of the announcement about the lump sum payment related to the November 1983 pay offer? what lies behind the Press reports of some special bonus to induce NACODS members in Yorkshire to resume work?)
 - the claim by the NACODS President, Mr Sampey, that Mr MacGregor has gone back on the NCB's pledge of no compulsory redundancies;
- ii. the Home Secretary on
 - law and order;
- iii. the Secretary of State for Employment on
 - the developments (if any) in the attitude of the TUC and other trade unions.

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Independent colliery review body

2. Last Tuesday (20 November) the Secretary of State for Energy undertook to explore the NCB's thinking about the composition and methods of working of the independent colliery review body referred to in the agreement with NACODS. He may not have had the opportunity to do this yet but a gentle reminder would not come amiss.

Next meeting

3. The next opportunity for a discussion will be under the Industrial Affairs item at Cabinet on 29 November.

PLG
P L GREGSON

23 November 1984

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