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PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(85)7th Meeting: Coal

868

You will wish to invite reports from:

1100

i. the Secretary of State for Energy on:

- the number of pits and miners working;
- coal movements;
- the prospects for negotiations, in the light of developments since the NUM and NACODS NECs met the General Secretary of the TUC on 15 February;
- progress in the preparation of comments on the NCB's ideas about the new independent advisory body.
(Misc 101(85)6th Meeting Conclusion 2);

ii. the Secretary of State for Employment on:

NUM Executive amendments

- known and likely attitudes of other unions, in the light of developments since the 15 February TUC/NUM/NACODS meeting;

iii. the Secretary of State for Transport on:

Coastal - Smith

- the significance of last week's TGWU and NUS blacking of three coal ships in North East ports;

iv. the Home Secretary on:

- law and order, particularly the levels of picketing following recent High Court injunctions concerning certain pits in the Yorkshire and South Wales coalfields;

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v. the Attorney General on:

- any significant developments in civil actions;
(the receiver applied to the High Court on
15 February for the sequestration order to be lifted)

2. You may wish to get agreement on the line to be taken by Ministers in any unavoidable public comment if:

- substantive negotiations have begun or seem likely to begin
(the future of NUM members dismissed during the strike, for disciplinary or criminal offences, may prove particularly sensitive - a South Wales NUM spokesman said on 13 February that his area would never return to work until an amnesty had been agreed for all NUM members so dismissed.)
- negotiations do not seem likely to start or have broken down
(the position of NACODS will need to be considered when deciding how best to pin the responsibility on Mr Scargill.)

3. As there is no Cabinet on 21 February, the next opportunity for discussion will be the next Misc 101 meeting, arranged for Tuesday 26 February at 11 am.

PLG

P L GREGSON

15 February 1985