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P.01408

PRIME MINISTER

MISC 101(84)45th Meeting: Coal

After the usual reports from the Secretary of State for Energy on the number of pits and miners working and coal movements, and from the Home Secretary on law and order, you may wish to concentrate on the following:

i. the latest assessment of the likely rank and file response to the NACODS strike call;

ii. the prospects for further talks under the aegis of ACAS, and the tactics for any such talks;

iii. the role of Mr Eaton;

iv. the handling of the TGWU in relation to opencast production and movement;

(Mr Walker is seeing Mr Henderson who heads the relevant section of the TGWU; increased movement of opencast is vital for endurance if the Nottinghamshire pits cease production but the TGWU is threatening a ban on opencast production as well as movement unless the civil contractors concede NCB-type redundancy arrangements)

v. likely developments in the courts over the fine on the NUM;

(the deadline for payment is Wednesday; how soon will sequestration of NUM assets follow? what are the likely consequences of that?)



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- vi. the line to take over the next few days. *and the note you should strike at Questions.*

BSO Survey

2. Mr Lamont, who will be representing the DTI, may raise the question of whether the Business Statistics Office (BSO) should carry out a survey of the effects of the coal strike. When this idea has been discussed on earlier occasions, it has been thought undesirable.

Next meeting

3. You will wish to consider whether you want to proceed with the MISC 101 meeting provisionally arranged for 5.00pm on Wednesday 24 October.

*PLG*

P L GREGSON

22 October 1984