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Ref. A084/3175

PRIME MINISTERCabinet: Industrial Affairs: Coal

You will wish to invite oral reports from:

- (i) The Secretary of State for Energy on
- the number of pits and miners working;
  - coal movements;
  - how to sustain the return to work, in the light of this week's large drop in the numbers;
  - the pay settlement for 1984-85 reached yesterday with the British Association of Colliery Managers (BACM) (5.2 per cent, the same as for 1983-84) and the negotiations with NACODS due on 29 November;
  - the NUM National Executive Committee meeting on 29 November.
- (ii) The Home Secretary on law and order, particularly arrangements to protect individuals from assault on themselves and their property.
- (iii) The Secretary of State for Employment on likely developments, if any, from the TUC, in the light of this week's meeting with NUM officials (excluding Mr Scargill) and meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (two) and the General Council, following which the TUC General Secretary announced that the TUC would do everything possible to get negotiations started again.

Press report  
attached





(iv) The <sup>Solicitor</sup>~~Attorney~~ General on progress by the sequestrators.

Line to take

2. You will wish to establish a clear line for Ministers to take over the next ten days or so, in view of

the tailing off of the return to work;

the serious incidents of violence against individuals and their property;

the continuing blatant flouting of the High Court by senior NUM officials (as exemplified by reports of Mr McGahey's treatment of the Bailiff and the writ he served on behalf of the sequestrators outside Congress House on 27 November);

the rally in Stoke-on-Trent on 30 November to be addressed by Messrs Kinnock and Scargill;

the meeting to be held after 30 November between a Labour Party delegation (led by Mr Kinnock) and the NUM.

Next Meeting

3. In view of your attendance at the European Council next week the next opportunity for discussion is scheduled to be at Cabinet on 6 December, although 10.30 am on Wednesday 5 December is booked in your diary should developments in the dispute indicate that a MISC 101 meeting on that day would be desirable. (The next firmly planned MISC 101 is on Monday 10 December.)

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

28 November 1984