

PRIME MINISTER

NUM RULE BOOK

There are four issues for this meeting.

- (i) What are the features of the proposed NUM Rule Book that are objectionable? These are summarised on the first two pages of the paper attached to Mr Walker's minute of 26 April - flag A.
- (ii) What can Government do, or cause to be done, to promote opposition to the Rule Book? Overt action by Ministers is unlikely to be helpful but NCB or the various working miners' groups may be able to mobilise opposition.
- (iii) How far could the provisions of the NUM Rule Book be challenged in the court? The Lord Chancellor's minute of 8 May - flag B - indicates that some of the rule changes are likely to be found void on grounds of public policy. The issue would be who should be inspired to bring the challenge in the courts. Mr King's minute of 24 May - flag C - suggests that the powers being sought by the NEC to call strikes short of a national strike would fall foul of the 1984 Act.
- (iv) If the new Rule Book were to be adopted the Government would need to consider changes in legislation to counter some of its provisions. Mr King's paper of 5 June - flag D - indicates some of the possibilities, see pages 4-6.

AT

ANDREW TURNBULL

5 June 1985