



(c) crown copyright

*Printed for the War Cabinet. March 1944.***SECRET.**

Copy No. 52

**W.M. (44)****31st Conclusions.****WAR CABINET 31 (44).***CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the War Cabinet held in the Prime Minister's Room, House of Commons, S.W. 1, on Friday, 10th March, 1944, at 11.30 a.m.*

## Present :

The Right Hon. WINSTON S. CHURCHILL, M.P., Prime Minister ( <i>in the Chair</i> ).	
The Right Hon. C. R. ATTLEE, M.P., Lord President of the Council.	The Right Hon. ANTHONY EDEN, M.P., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
The Right Hon. Sir JOHN ANDERSON, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.	The Right Hon. ERNEST BEVIN, M.P., Minister of Labour and National Service.
The Right Hon. OLIVER LYTTTELTON, M.P., Minister of Production.	The Right Hon. HERBERT MORRISON, M.P., Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister of Home Security
The Right Hon. LORD WOOLTON, Minister of Reconstruction.	

*Secretariat.*

Sir EDWARD BRIDGES.  
Mr. W. S. MURRIE.

## CONTENTS.

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	Position in Mining Industry ....	146
2	"Overlord" Security ....	146

**Position in  
Mining  
Industry.**

(Previous  
Reference:  
W.M. (44) 30th  
Conclusions,  
Minute 3.)

1. Reference was made to the position in the mining industry. The War Cabinet was informed that, while a large number of men were out in South Wales, there was now little trouble in any of the other coal-fields.

*The Minister of Production* said that, if the strike in South Wales continued, there was a danger that at the beginning of next week there would be a reduction in electrical power for industry of about 50 per cent. in that area. This would have some effect on war production. He thought, however, that the right policy was to continue production at the full rate until such time as work in particular factories had to be stopped owing to the shortage of coal, and not to send coal specially to South Wales from other areas. This course would have the incidental advantage of bringing home to those concerned the effect of the stoppage in the South Wales coal-field on essential war production.

The War Cabinet—

Endorsed this view.

The War Cabinet was also informed that some desire had been expressed in certain quarters that there should be an opportunity for a Debate in the House of Commons in the near future on the position in the coal-mining industry. The view of the War Cabinet was that discussion on this matter in the House of Commons at the present juncture would not serve any useful purpose and should be discouraged.

**"Overlord"  
Security.**

(Previous  
Reference:  
W.M. (44) 18th  
Conclusions,  
Minute 2.)

2. The War Cabinet had before them a paper by the Minister of Production (W.P. (44) 153) covering a note dealing with certain proposals connected with "Overlord" security. The discussion and conclusions are recorded in the Secretary's Standard File of War Cabinet Conclusions.

*Offices of the War Cabinet, S.W. 1,  
10th March 1944.*

W.M. (44) 31

Note of Points not thought worth recording in the  
Cabinet Conclusions

1. Hours of Sitting. There was some reference to this and the Foreign Secretary said that he would be embarrassed if, having got general agreement to the hours of 2 - 9 on condition that there was work for Standing Committees, if set up, it emerged that there wasn't any flow of legislation. The Lord President said he was looking into this.
  2. In connection with the above, reference was made to the Water Bill, and the Prime Minister asked Lord Woolton to bring it before the Cabinet at an early date.
  3. Talk about the Dollar Balances, but no conclusion worth recording.
  4. The Foreign Secretary was asked to tell Clark Kerr how well President Roosevelt had reacted to the telegram to Russia about Poland.
  5. Talk about the Housing Bill, leading to discussion about Uthwatt and land values, all of which is being settled in the R. Committee. No definite conclusion, but the need for bringing this to a point at which it can come before the Cabinet in the near future was strongly emphasised.
  6. The Prime Minister wants to see the draft White Paper on the Social Security Scheme as soon as possible, even if it isn't finished.
- Generally, I think it is clear that it would be a good plan to let the Prime Minister have early drafts of any of the White Papers which are nearing completion.
7. Mr. Bevin spoke of circulating a draft White Paper about the Demobilisation Scheme and suggesting an early discussion at a meeting of the War Cabinet attended by the Service Ministers.
  8. The Lord President undertook to send a note to the Prime Minister about his suggestion that our aircraft should attack panzer divisions in France.
  9. The Minister of Production undertook to send a note to the Prime Minister about shortage of man-power in the Guards.
  10. There was some talk about the Prime Minister making a broadcast. The Prime Minister would like to do this in about a fortnight, but some of his colleagues would like to wait until rather more of the White Papers on reconstruction problems have been issued.

E.E.B

10th March, 1944





