

EMBARGO: 15.00 HOURS FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1977 20 Kensington Palace Gardens London W8 4Q Q Telephone: 01-727 8090

March 24, 1977

NEW LOANS TO NATIONAL COAL BOARD

The Commission has announced the approval of a loan of £670,000 to the National Coal Board under article 54 of the ECSC Treaty.

The loan will contribute to the construction of a new training centre and expansion of the existing preparation laboratories at the Mining Research and Development Establishment in Stanhope Bretby near Burton-on-Trent.

The Community encourages the establishment of research and vocational training centres within the coal and steel industries and is making this loan at a reduced rate of interest during the first five years.

The loan will be paid out according to progress on the project and the terms will depend upon market conditions at the time the loan is disbursed.

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