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Prime Minister

CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.
Head of the Home Civil Service

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17/6

Tim Lankester Esq
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17 June 1981

Dear Tim,

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INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

The total number of those involved in selective strike action is now 4928, including 16 staff still involved in unofficial action at the Department of Employment (see below).

The principal departments affected remain unchanged: Inland Revenue, MOD, Customs and Excise, DHSS, Employment, MAFF, Trade and Industry, Scottish Courts, DVLC and Passport Offices. Action still continues within the CAA. As usual the main developments in departments are set out below, and an Annex setting out total numbers on strike is attached.

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The constituent unions of CCSU are still consulting their members about the way forward, prior to a final decision on the matter on Thursday by the Council's Major Policy Committee. The National Executive Committees of 3 of the 4 major unions - the SCPS, CPSA and IRSF favour all out strike action, and early indications were that this course was receiving strong support in membership ballots. However, though the full picture is still by no means available, the position now seems less clear-cut. It is certain that the unions will be faced with a difficult decision on Thursday.

The position varies between unions, within departments and from region to region. All out action appears to be favoured considerably more in the North than in the South.

EMPLOYMENT

Following a meeting between management and CCSU on Tuesday involving the threat of TRD action, all but 16 of the remaining staff taking unofficial action in Scotland returned to work yesterday and are working normally. The remainder are expected to return today. Some Unemployment Benefit Offices have been closed to the public on each of the past three working days to enable efforts to be concentrated on the backlog of work on benefit payments. The 79 staff at Hull, who had been on strike for

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three days at the end of last week, returned to work on Monday.

DHSS

It is now known that 716 staff from 14 offices were involved in the 'protest' action last Friday in sympathy with the Department of Employment unofficial strikers. 274 staff in the Yorkshire and Humberside area as well as 44 staff in Cambridge also walked out on Friday afternoon. Scotland was again affected yesterday, with offices closed at Glasgow and Paisley due to walkouts by some 200 staff. The pattern of selective action at DHSS continues as before.

ENVIRONMENT/TRANSPORT

Management is considering contingency arrangements to effect another delivery of mail to DVLC Swansea.

MOD

A total of 1015 staff are involved in selective action, the pattern of which is similar to that previously reported. Nine meteorological staff at Manchester Airport were on strike yesterday for 24 hours. 125 staff at RNSD Llangennech were on an unofficial one-day strike yesterday in protest against management taking in mail.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

Data processors at London Airport returned to work yesterday. Otherwise the pattern of action continues as before.

INLAND REVENUE

First TRD letters have been sent to 15 Collectors in charge of offices in the North which have, on union instructions, failed to submit returns of work to central management. Further letters will probably need to be sent out on Thursday. Letters are only being sent to Collectors in offices which are known not to be working normally. Although in theory if there is no cooperation this action could result in TRD of all staff in the offices concerned, such an outcome is considered extremely unlikely and newspaper reports of 9000 staff being threatened with TRD action are dismissed as highly exaggerated.

Copies as before.

Yours truly,
Jeremy Colman

JEREMY COLMAN
Private Secretary

SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS

SUMMARY OF POSITION - 16 JUNE 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	445	Strikes by computer, customs and other staff at Southend Computer Centre (308); Dover/Folkestone/Sheerness/Shoreham/Newhaven (93); Newcastle-upon-Tyne (1); Manchester Betting Duty Office (43).
Ministry of Defence	1015	Strikes by computer and other staff at 4 dockyards, 4 RN stores depots, 2 RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, Royal Ordnance Factories, Feltham and Taunton (Mapping), Bath, Oil Fuel Depots.
Environment/Transport	69	Senior Data Processors at DVLC.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	317	Passport Examiners at the London, Liverpool, Peterborough, Newport and Glasgow Passport Offices; staff at Hayes Record Centre
Dept. of Health and Social Security	455	230 staff on strike at Newcastle computer centre; 10 staff at North Fylde central Accounts Office; staff at Reading Computer Centre (59) Livingston Computer Centre (56), and Washington Computer Centre (100).
Home Office		
Inland Revenue	2076	Staff on strike at Shipley and Cumbernauld computer centres; staff at various Collection Offices. (1737 on strike, 339 TRD)
Paymaster General's Office	27	Strike by 12 computer staff; 12 in Finance Branch, disrupting Government banking transactions; telephonists.
Property Services Agency	41	Strikes by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy, Pendine, Aberporth, Z St Athans, Treow, Cardiff DWO, Cumbernauld. Shoeburyness

Departments	Number on strike	Remarks
Depts. of Trade and Industry	163	Strike by staff who handle search facilities at Companies House, London and Cardiff; telephonists at Cardiff
Scottish Office	25	Staff at the Scottish Computer Centre and 1 CPSA member involved in organising industrial action.
Scottish Courts Administration	235	Strike by staff at Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts.
Registers of Scotland	11	Strike by Administrative staff.
MAFF	17	Staff at Guildford Computer Centre.
Employment	24	Computer staff at Reading. 16 staff on unofficial strike in Scotland - expected to return to work tomorrow.
Ordnance Survey	8	8 Reprographic staff.
TOTAL	4928	Includes 16 DE staff on unofficial strike