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CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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

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Tim Lankester Esq
Private Secretary
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

24 July 1981

MS

Dear Tim,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

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5139 staff are currently involved in selective industrial action, the departments affected being as previously reported. There have been few significant developments since the consultative period began. Those which have occurred are noted below and a table is attached showing numbers on strike by department.

Early indication of the results of consultative meetings are mixed. About 50% of IRSF members have now had the opportunity of voting, and of those about 56% have come out against the offer, with 44% in favour. The voting among CPSA members at DHSS local offices in the North has been finely balanced in favour of the offer though only a relatively small proportion of the results is available. Other groups, such as IPCS members in MOD and CPSA members at the Department of Employment are thought likely to come out in favour by reasonable majorities. Notwithstanding the union's recommendation, CSU members at DVLC, however, have significantly voted in favour of the Government offer. The position will be considerably clearer by early next week.

ACTION WITHIN DEPARTMENTS:

EMPLOYMENT

There are few significant changes. About 500 staff are now on strike from 19 offices. The Wembley office has closed, creating difficulties for DHSS (see below). Problems are

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expected to arise at Fulham, where 3 staff have come out on strike, and Sheffield within the next few days. A meeting between management and unions about recovery in the Benefit Service after the dispute was held yesterday, though the unions' approach was not helpful.

DHSS

5 local offices are likely to receive a surge of claims as a result of the Wembley UBO shutdown. The local authorities will help to ease difficulties.

At Hackney, contingency benefit payment arrangements involving the Local Authority are operating reasonably satisfactorily. Both of these areas are being kept under close review by the Department who have further emergency payment arrangements available if needed.

ECGD

An agreement has now been reached between management and unions for mail at the Cathays Park site to be opened and processed. This will provide enough work until at least the end of the consultative period.

SCOTTISH OFFICE

All staff are now working normally following the return to work on Wednesday of 13 strikers at the Department of Agriculture for Scotland.

WELSH OFFICE

TRD action is continuing against staff blacking work, but nearly all of those given warnings so far have resumed normal working. The scale of necessary TRD action has reduced significantly since earlier in the week.

Copies as before.

Yours ever,

Jeremy

J G COLMAN
Private Secretary

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SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS

SUMMARY OF POSITION -- 24 JULY 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	355	Strikes by computer, customs and other staff at Southend Computer Centre (308); Manchester Betting Duty Office (43); Glasgow Betting Duty Office (3); -1 VAT Office Staff.
Ministry of Defence	592	Strikes by computer and other staff at dockyards, RN stores depots, RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, Royal Ordnance Factories, Feltham and Taunton (Mapping), Bath.
Environment/Transport	85	EOs and Senior Data Processors at DVLC.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	110	Passport Examiners at Liverpool and Glasgow.
Dept. of Health and Social Security	473	230 staff on strike at Newcastle computer centre; 11 staff at North Fylde central Accounts Office; staff at Reading Computer Centre (58), Livingston Computer Centre (60), and Washington Computer Centre (100). Medicines Division DHSS HQ (3) Local office staff (11)
Home Office		
Inland Revenue	2466	Staff on strike at Shipley and Cumbernauld computer centres; staff at various Collection Offices. (472 TRDs)

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Paymaster General's Office	43	Strike by 28 computer staff affecting pension payments; 12 in Finance Branch, disrupting Government banking transactions; 3 telephonists.
Property Services Agency	41	Strikes by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy, Pendine, Aberporth, Shoburyness, St Athans, Trecwn, Cardiff DWO, Cumbernauld.
Depts. of Trade and Industry	163	Strike by staff who handle search facilities at Companies House, London and Cardiff; telephonists at Cardiff.
Scottish Office		
Scottish Courts Administration	235	Strike by staff at Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts.
ECGD	11	Post room staff, 3 EOs and 3 Principals
MAFF	18	Staff at Guildford Computer Centre.
Employment	521	8 Computer staff at Reading and 7 staff in the Statistics Branch, Watford 506 UBO staff.
Ordnance Survey	1	1 Filmsetter Operator
Welsh Office	25	Mail sorting staff, paperkeepers and messengers at Cathays Park, CO in Finance Division, 1 Member of Staff at Aberystwyth
TOTAL	5139	