

Denis Minisk



Civil Service T. nsh

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17/7

*[Handwritten signature]*

Tim Lankester Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

Dear Tim,

INSTITUTION OF PROFESSIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS DISPUTE

As the Prime Minister knows, the Lord President met representatives of the IPCS at lunchtime today at their request. Mr McCall the General Secretary of the union had written yesterday undertaking to discontinue all action affecting the Houses of Parliament, including the St Stephen's Press from the date of the meeting. Although, of course, the effect on the Houses is only one small part of the effects of this dispute with the Professional and Technology Group represented by the IPCS, I understand that Mr McCall's undertaking has indeed been honoured today so that there is some small relief. The remaining action affecting areas such as Defence continues.

At the meeting the IPCS pressed again for some third party conciliation other than the established Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal on the basis that the dispute concerns the principle of pay determination rather than the actual rates. In response the Lord President stressed his view that the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal was the most appropriate avenue to resolve this dispute and he urged the IPCS once again to go to Arbitration. Nevertheless, he undertook to consider the points put by Mr McCall and agreed to meet IPCS representatives again when he returned from Strasbourg and we have now fixed a meeting for Friday morning.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Defence and Employment and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and to Martin Vile in Sir John Hunt's office.

*Yours sincerely,  
Jim Buckley.*

J BUCKLEY  
Private Secretary  
17 July 1979