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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

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12 June 1981

Dear Tim,

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INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

The total number of those involved in selective strike action is now 5,664 including 666 staff on unofficial strike in the Department of Employment (see below). Also it is now estimated that about 8,000 staff took part in some form of short protest action during one or another of the three working days beginning Friday 5 June (ie following the breakdown of talks).

The principal departments affected by selective strike action are unchanged: Inland Revenue, MOD, DHSS, Employment, Customs and Excise, MAFF, Trade and Industry, Scottish Courts and the Passport Offices. The most significant developments, including extensive TRD action, have occurred at DHSS and Employment. The position in these departments is set out in more detail below.
... An Annex setting out total numbers on strike is attached.

Consultative meetings are now being held throughout the country by the SCPS, CPSA and IRSF about the way forward. The National Executive Committees of these unions support all-out strike action, but union members' views are being sought before a final decision is taken by the CCSU Major Policy Committee on 18 June. The other options which are being put to members are acceptance of the present offer, and escalation of the present selective strike action. First reports suggest support for the Executive Committees' recommendation. However, the IPCS are inclined towards increased selective action and the FDA, who are also holding consultative meetings, can constitutionally take part in an all-out strike only if a ballot of their membership comes out in favour.

Situation in individual DepartmentsEMPLOYMENT

As predicted in the last Report, about 850 local office staff in Scotland continued to disregard management instructions to comply with contingency arrangements for the manual payment of unemployment benefits, and went out on unofficial strike from the morning. Although about 30% of the staff concerned have now returned, many of the offices concerned are particularly hard-hit and are seriously behind with the emergency benefit procedures. 587 staff are still on unofficial strike, mainly from six offices, which are closed to the public as a result. Written TRD warnings have been sent to these staff by registered post. It is believed that when they return to work they will recommence disruptive action and management has therefore countered the possibility by enabling final TRD action to be taken immediately should the need arise. A further 44 Unemployment Benefit Offices have been closed to the public today in order for maximum effort to be given to removing the backlog of work on benefit payments. 79 staff from five offices in Hull are expected to terminate unofficial strike action on Monday.

DHSS

Some offices had to close early in the day as a result of overcrowding by social security claimants. 4 offices have closed today for the same reason. In addition two offices closed late on Thursday afternoon due to a walkout by 126 staff.

Today, 15 offices have closed due to 'protest' strike action by staff who are in sympathy with the Department of Employment unofficial strikers. Three other offices are hit by strike action but have been able to open. It is expected that this action will be largely confined to today.

FCO-PASSPORT OFFICE

The United States Government has agreed to an extension of British Visitors' Passports to cover travel to the USA. A further 22 staff at Glasgow, and 6 at the Hayes Record Office, have gone on strike.

MOD

A total of 1,026 staff are now involved in selective action. The pattern continues as before, with Naval operations hardest hit. 15 more staff at the Clyde submarine base have come out on strike today. The Department accounted for a very significant proportion of those involved in 'protest' action between 5 and 9 June.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

The pattern of selective action continues as in recent Reports. Export traffic at Dover continues to be subject to delay. Data processing staff at London Airport went on indefinite strike from 9 June.

DVLC

Mail has been delivered across the picket and the blockading action stopped.

Copies as before.

Yours ever,

Jeremy

J G COLMAN
Private Secretary

SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS

SUMMARY OF POSITION - 12 JUNE 1981

| Department | Number on strike | Remarks |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Customs & Excise | 457 | Strikes by computer, customs and other staff at Southend Computer Centre; Dover/Folkestone/Sheerness/Shoreham/Newhaven; Manchester Betting Duty Office, London and Gatwick airports. |
| Ministry of Defence | 1026 | 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, REME Longmoor |
| Environment/Transport | 69 | Senior Data Processors at DVIC. |
| 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 | 2108 | Staff on strike at Shipley, Cumbernauld and Worthing computer centres; staff at various Collection Offices; staff at mail sorting centre, Kew (1769 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 | 80 | Strikes by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy, Pendine, Aberporth, St Athans, Treow, Cardiff-DWO, Cumbernauld, RAF Bulmer and West Drayton 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 | 674 | Computer staff at Reading. 666 staff on unofficial strike in Scotland and in Yorkshire/Humberside area. |
| TOTAL | 5664 | Includes 666 DE staff on unofficial strike |