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C A Whitmore Esq
Private Secretary
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

23 April 1981

Dear Clive,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

We will of course be letting the Prime Minister have a full report on today's meeting with the unions, but meanwhile, you and copy addressees may like this factual report on recent industrial action.

The industrial action over Easter weekend did not cause too many problems - the union propaganda was, as usual, considerably exaggerated. There were no undue delays to passengers as the result of action by Customs Officers. There were delays at Glasgow Airport on Easter Saturday because of industrial action by Immigration Officers but, that apart, no real difficulties. No industrial action was taken by Civil Aviation Authority staff.

There has been no marked change in the pattern of the industrial action since my last report on 16 April. In the Ministry of Defence, selective action continues to affect the naval programme; staff are on strike in four areas of Customs and Excise (VAT office at Southend, Northern Ireland Land Boundary, West Coast ports, Manchester (Betting Duty)); the two Inland Revenue Accounts Offices at Cumbernauld and Shipley are closed; some staff are on strike in Scotland (Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts, Scottish Office Computer Centre, Registers of Scotland and three DHSS local offices); and 240 staff are still out in DHSS, mainly at the Newcastle computer recording national insurance contributions.

The one new development is that 42 staff (Passport Examiners) are on strike at the London Passport Office. A restricted service is being maintained; the position does not yet appear to be serious.

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The unions have said that they do not propose to change their strategy for the time being. This means that we can expect much the same pattern of activity to continue next week. One development could be industrial action by Air Traffic Control Officers, Air Traffic Control Assistants and technical staff employed by the Civil Aviation Authority. I will report on this when we have firmer information.

Details of the numbers on strike yesterday are given in the attached Annex.

Copies as usual.

Yours ever,

Jeremy Colman

J G COLMAN
Private Secretary

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2

SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS
SUMMARY OF POSITION - 23 APRIL 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	743	277 data processing staff on strike at Southend computer; 243 customs staff at West Coast ports; 185 staff on the NI Boundary 38 Manchester Betting Duty Office.
MOD	582	Strikes by computer and other staff at 4 dockyards, 4 RN stores depots, 2 RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, bill-paying (Liverpool), Mapping and Charting Establishment (Feltham & Taunton) Directorate of Submarine Projects (Bath) and 5 Oil Fuel Depots.
Employment		Staff at Runcorn computer centre are working normally.
Environment	4	Cartographers at HQ, Marsham Street.
DHSS	240	230 staff on strike at Newcastle computer recording NI contributions; 10 at North Fylde Central Accounts Office; plus 120 staff taking unofficial strike action at three local offices in Scotland.
Inland Revenue	1479	901 on strike at Cumbernauld, Shipley and Worthing computer centres; remainder at various Collection Offices.
Lord Chancellor's Department		
PSA	23	Strike by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy works offices. 3 Engineers at Aberporth. 10 PTOs at St Athans.
Depts of Trade & Industry	140	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.
Scottish Courts Administration	235	Strike by staff at Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts.
Registers of Scotland	11	Strike by Administrative staff.
Paymaster General's Office	28	Strike by 10 computer staff; 13 in Finance Branch, disrupting Government banking transactions; telephonists.
FCO	42	Passport Examiners at the London Passport Office.
Home Office	6	Staff picketing Horfield Prison, Bristol.
TOTAL	3,558	