

cc Duguid
cc Vetcher

Prime Minister ¹¹ ^{A1}

SECRET

Prime Minister

INDUSTRIAL ACTION AT DVLC

*Spoke to Tomcort
and told them that
the PM had asked what
they were planning*

~~assume you
go along with this.
The action proposed.~~

The Ld President's private
secretary has msg to say
*Ld Spence thinks
that those sent home
should be suspended. But
without legislation, I can't*

TL - 11/5

The situation today at Swansea, where the unions *see how*
have remained adamant with extremely strong backing from the *we can*
majority of the 4,000 staff, has changed only in that the work *do this.*
has now virtually run out. I intend therefore that units *Assess*
without work should be sent home on Monday. The scope for
obstruction on the site will be much reduced by this and should *TL*
open the way for the air conditioning plant on which the computers
depend to be put back in order. PSA have a team ready to do *9/5*
this if the obstruction can be removed. But a large picket
may congregate at the gate.

I am therefore obtaining the advice of the Chief
Constable on how this situation can best be controlled and
the mail be successfully brought in. It is a question of
judging the police strength required, which in some circumstances
could run to hundreds, with a co-ordinated plan for transporting
the mail under their protection.

I am also exploring the possibility of disciplinary
action against anyone who obstructs the performance of official
duties by colleagues on site.

I am sending copies to the Lord President, the
Secretary of State for the Environment, the Secretary of State
for Employment and Sir Robert Armstrong.

NORMAN FOWLER
8 May 1981

SECRET