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Prime Minister

CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT
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Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.
Head of the Home Civil Service

Mike Pattison Esq
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6 April 1981

Dear Mike,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

The average number on strike each day last week (apart from Wednesday) has been around 3,000. The areas mainly affected (quoting Friday's figures) - Inland Revenue (1300), MOD (540), Customs and Excise (440), Lord Chancellor's Department (360), Scottish Courts Administration (235), and DHSS (260).

The tactics have not changed to any great extent. The main target is still Inland Revenue. Their computers at Cumbernauld and Shipley remain shut down. The collection service has been substantially disrupted by industrial action. A large majority of the 15 regional offices have been directly affected by industrial action. In each of the regions, two offices have been subjected to the TRD procedure which has led, or will lead, to suspension. Of the remaining offices in each region (varying from 12 to 25) the vast majority have been affected by walk-outs to a greater or lesser extent, these walk-outs being in support of the TRD of colleagues. Industrial action has led to some offices being completely closed.

There continues to be industrial action at a number of Defence establishments. The Navy Department remains a main target - the cumulative effects of the strikes being felt increasingly at Rosyth, Chatham and the Clyde submarine base. In all 20 MOD establishments are affected, not all of them on the Navy side. Ministers have approved the use of TRD in several cases in the Department.

One of the main features of the industrial action last week came on Wednesday when there were protest meetings and walk-outs throughout the country. There was also a lobby of Parliament. Final returns have still to be received from Departments. Preliminary indications are that some 105,000 non-industrial civil servants took part in some form of action on Wednesday. In some cases, this meant no more than one hour's absence from the office; others were absent for a half a day or so. The unions claimed that 250,000 took part - this is not supported

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by the evidence claimed so far from Departments.

I am copying this to the Private Secretaries to Permanent Secretary
Heads of Departments and Smaller Departments.

Yours we,
Jeremy Colman

JEREMY COLMAN
Private Secretary