



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 May, 1979.

Dear Mr. Hart,

Thank you for your letter of 8 May about the Burnham negotiations and the industrial action by the National Union of Teachers and National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

I know that Mark Carlisle has informed you that he is making the resolution of the current pay dispute his first priority on taking up office. I share his view that it is highly regrettable that our relations with the teacher associations should have to begin against a background of industrial action which was decided upon before the election and cannot speed up the decisions we must take on this important question. For my part, I can assure you that I recognise the importance of the education service and the contribution made by Head Teachers, particularly during difficult times such as the present.

I hope that teachers will not take any action which harms the prospects of the pupils entrusted to their care.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD) MT

D.M. Hart, Esq.