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CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.

Head of the Home Civil Service

in the Verden
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MBM - too late
R 17/7
15 July 1981

Dear Tim,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

GENERAL

The Council of Civil Service Unions met yesterday and decided to continue with selective action. Whilst they did not support widespread intensification of the action they have indicated that there will be escalation in the Unemployment Benefit Service. They estimate that approximately 700 staff will be on strike from about 20 offices by the end of the week.

SELECTIVE ACTION

A total of 5147 staff are currently involved in selective industrial action, the principal departments affected being as previously reported. Significant developments within departments are as usual outlined below and a table showing numbers on strike is attached.

ACTION WITHIN DEPARTMENTS

Employment

About 310 Unemployment Benefit Office staff are now on strike. As a result no benefit payments are being made at Keighley, Kinning Park, Easterhouse (Glasgow), Hackney and Willesden. Other offices affected by strike action or suspensions are Leyton, Sheffield, Barrhead, Wood Green, Tottenham and Poplar. The department is continuing its programme of TRD action against staff refusing to handle new stocks of Girocheques.

However it should be noted that nearly 900 offices are working normally, with a significant number using "blacked cheques".

DHSS

Local social security staff in a number of offices are refusing to deal with claimants redirected from UBOs. The offices at Keighley, Hackney and Stoke Newington were as a result closed

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to the public yesterday, and oral TRD warnings were issued to the staff concerned today. Similar developments are likely at offices in Glasgow, Sheffield and Bristol. Claimants who are unable to obtain either Unemployment Benefit or Social Security are being redirected to the appropriate Local Authority social services departments. At present the Local Authorities appear to be coping reasonably well.

Inland Revenue

The number of staff involved in selective action or on TRD has increased by nearly 200 (to 2459). The pattern of action is similar to that previously reported, with the Collection Service still seriously affected.

Welsh Office/ECGD

The 24-hour picket of the Cathays Park site continues though it is not seriously affecting the delivery and collection of mail which is being carried out by contractors. Senior management are collecting and distributing mail to their Divisions in the absence on strike of postroom staff. There is widespread blacking of work throughout the Welsh Office and the Permanent Secretary has issued a notice to all staff warning that TRD action will take place if this continues.

CAA

No industrial action has been reported this week.

MOD

Significant numbers of staff (largely IPCS members) have returned to work, at Culpport and other establishments.

Copies as before.

*Yours ever,
Jeremy*

JEREMY COLMAN
Private Secretary

SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS

SUMMARY OF POSITION -15 JULY 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	354	Strikes by computer, customs and other staff at Southend Computer Centre (308); Manchester Betting Duty Office (43); Glasgow Betting Duty Office (3)
Ministry of Defence	656	Strikes by computer and other staff at dockyards, RN stores depots, RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, Royal Ordnance Factories, Feltham and Taunton (Mapping), Bath.
Environment/Transport	85	EOs and Senior Data Processors at DVLC.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	212	Passport Examiners at the London, Liverpool, and Glasgow Passport Offices; staff at Hayes Record Centre, Photoprinters (telegrams section).
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 (56), Livingston Computer Centre (56), and Washington Computer Centre (100). Medicines Division DHSS HQ (3).
Home Office		
Inland Revenue	2459	Staff on strike at Shipley and Cumbernauld computer centres; staff at various Collection Offices. (467 TRDs)

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Paymaster General's Office	43	Strike by 28 computer staff affecting pension payments; 12 in Finance Branch, disrupting Government banking transactions; 3 telephonists.
Property Services Agency	44	Strikes by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy, Pendine, Aberporth, Shoeburyness, St Athans, Trecwn, Cardiff DWO, Cumbernauld and Carlisle.
Depts. of Trade and Industry	163	Strike by staff who handle search facilities at Companies House, London and Cardiff; telephonists at Cardiff.
Scottish Office DAFS	25 13	Staff at the Scottish Computer Centre and 1 CPSA member involved in organising industrial action. Drawing Office staff
Scottish Courts Administration	235	Strike by staff at Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts.
ECGD	5	Post room staff
MAFF	18	Staff at Guildford Computer Centre.
Employment	325	8 Computer staff at Reading and 7 staff in the Statistics Branch, Watford 310 UBO staff.
Ordnance Survey	1	1 Filmsetter Operator
Welsh Office	23	Mail sorting staff, paperkeepers and messengers at Cathays Park
TOTAL	5147	