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Prime Minister

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CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Telephone 01 273 5400

Sir John Herbecq K.C.B
Second Permanent Secretary

15 May 1981

T Lankester Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Mr Lankester,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

There has been little change in the number of staff involved in selective strike action - 4509 compared with 4490 as reported on 14 May. The number of staff on TRD remains the same at 465. Computers (in Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, DHSS, MOD, PGO, and SO) and Defence remain the principal targets. Some Defence establishments are being additionally affected by strikes by maintenance staff. Action by Air Traffic controllers involving the withdrawal of staff at various airports each day is causing some disruption, although in most cases a limited service is maintained. There have been a few new developments:

DVLC: Under an agreement with the Unions the van containing nitrogen for the air-conditioning system has withdrawn from the site and the backlog of mail is being delivered. This will provide work for staff up to the pre-computer stage: staff normally working on the output will be re-deployed. Further consideration is being given in consultation with the police as to the best way of sending in nitrogen supplies.

DTI: Staff at Companies House, Cardiff, have threatened to 'black' the mail brought in by management. Oral and written warnings of TRD will be issued today.

MOD: Approximately 90 industrial staff have been laid off at Portsmouth because of strike action by MT workshop supervisors. Overtime working has been banned by the IPCS at ROF, Bridgwater.

FCO: Liverpool and Glasgow Passport Offices continue to be hard hit with substantial queues of personal callers reported at the latter. The office at Petty France, however, is coping well and is working reasonably normally.

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The FDA yesterday voted overwhelmingly to continue its support for the Civil Service Unions' campaign of selective strikes. There seems to be growing support for some form of escalation possibly early in June although there is no further news of the possible week-long strike. Nevertheless Departments are reviewing their contingency plans.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Tyrrell

Ms H M Tyrrell
Private Secretary

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SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS
 SUMMARY OF POSITION - 15 MAY 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	426	Strikes by computer, customs and other staff at Southend Computer Centre (308); Wick (2); South Coast Ports (74); Manchester Betting Duty Office (42).
Ministry of Defence	841	Strikes by computer and other staff at 4 dockyards, 4 RN stores depots, 2 RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, Feltham and Taunton (Mapping), Bath, Oil Fuel Depots.
Environment/Transport	10	Cartographers on strike at HQ, Marsham Street. 6 Driving Examiners at Widnes. (DVLC - see PSA)
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	214	Passport Examiners at the London, Liverpool, Peterborough, Newport and Glasgow Passport Offices.
Dept. of Health and Social Security	240	230 staff on strike at Newcastle computer centre; 10 staff at North Fylde central Accounts Office.
Home Office	16	Staff at Gloucester, Exeter and Bristol Prisons.
Inland Revenue	2207	Staff on strike at Shipley, Cumbernauld and Worthing computer centres; staff at various Collection Offices. (1742 on strike, 465 TRD)
Paymaster General's Office	27	Strike by 12 computer staff; 12 in Finance Branch, disrupting Government banking transactions; telephonists.
Property Services Agency	57	Strikes by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy, Pendine; Aberporth, Yeovilton St Athans, Treawm, Cardiff DWO, Swansea DWO (picketing DVLC) & Cumbernauld.

Departments	Number on strike	Remarks
Depts. of Trade and Industry	186	Strike by staff who handle search facilities and Companies House, London and Cardiff; telephonists and messengers at Cardiff.
Scottish Office	25	Staff at the Scottish Computer Centre and 1 CPSA member involved in organising industrial action.
Scottish Courts Administration	235	Strike by staff at Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts.
Registers of Scotland	11	Strike by Administrative staff.
IBAP	14	Beef Imports/Exports Section, Reading.
TOTAL	4509	