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

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3 June 1981

Dear Tim,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

There are now 4816 staff involved in selective strike action, including 368 on TRD. Further TRD written warnings have been given to DHSS staff at Gloucester ILO for not working normally. Action continues at the major departmental computer centres (Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, DHSS, MOD, PGO, SO and MAFF). Staff at the DE/DHSS (Reading) Computer Centre are due to hold a meeting today, which is thought to be in preparation for strike action next week. The number of staff on strike at MOD has increased to 998 (from 817 as at 27 May). This is mainly due to industrial action in Royal Ordnance Factories at Bishopton, Nottingham, Birtley and Enfield. Navy Department remains particularly affected by action at Clyde Submarine Base and Rosyth Dockyard. Details of all the action and numbers involved are shown in the attached Annex.

The Council of Civil Service Unions continues to make clear that there will be a substantial escalation of industrial action if no agreement between the two sides has been reached by 8 June. The payment of social security and unemployment benefits are areas which may be affected. We understand that union meetings are being held in certain centres, presumably to consider their future arrangements. The main developments since the last report are as follows:

CAA

Action has continued into this week despite earlier indications that it would draw to a close by the end of last week. The pattern continues much as before with Glasgow and Sumburgh Airports the targets this morning, and Edinburgh tomorrow morning. In most cases, contrary to some Press reports, a service is being maintained.

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Environment/Transport

Local management are pursuing contingency arrangements to get post delivered to DVLC Swansea (at present a picket of approximately 20 staff is preventing this). About a week's work is in hand at present.

FCO

Action affecting the issue of passports at five centres continues to have serious consequences as previously reported. In addition, typing staff at the London (Petty France) office have now come out. The Australian and New Zealand Governments have agreed that, until the end of August, passports which have expired in the last five years will be valid for travel to those countries. It is hoped that a similar arrangement will be agreed with the Canadian Government.

Customs and Excise

Action continues as before, with the following additions: Strike action at Harwich, Sheerness and Felixstowe, with the possibility of further expansion at these ports. However, senior management are available to handle export/import documentation and delays will be kept to a minimum. Positive management action at Dover has also reduced delays to traffic. On a further positive note, staff at the Three Mills bonded warehouse have now returned to work.

GCHQ

Industrial action by Radio Operators affected two stations, in Staffordshire and Fifeshire, on 28 May. They resumed work on 29 May and are continuing to work normally.

Copies as before.

*Yours ever,
Jeremy*

JEREMY COLMAN
Private Secretary

SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS
SUMMARY OF POSITION - 2 JUNE 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	464	Strikes by computer, customs and other staff at Southend Computer Centre; Dover/Folkestone/Sheerness; Harwich/Felixstowe; Manchester Betting Duty Office, London Airport.
Ministry of Defence	998	Strikes by computer and other staff at 4 dockyards, 4 RN stores depots, 2 RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, Royal Ordnance Factories, Feltham and Taunton (Mapping), Bath, Oil Fuel Depots, REME Longmoor
Environment/Transport	75	Senior Data Processors at DVLC; Driving examiners at Blackburn.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	291	Passport Examiners at the London, Liverpool, Peterborough, Newport and Glasgow Passport Offices; Belfast Agency, typing staff at London
Dept. of Health and Social Security	244	230 staff on strike at Newcastle computer centre; 10 staff at North Fylde central Accounts Office; 4 staff at Reading Computer Centre
Home Office	8	Staff at Exeter Prison
Inland Revenue	2211	Staff on strike at Shipley, Cumbernauld and Worthing computer centres; staff at various Collection Offices. (1843 on strike, 368 TRD)
Paymaster General's Office	27	Strike by 12 computer staff; 12 in Finance Branch, disrupting Government banking transactions; telephonists.
Property Services Agency	39	Strikes by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy, Pendine, Aberporth, St Athans, Treow, Cardiff DWO, and Cumbernauld.

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Departments	Number on strike	Remarks
Depts. of Trade and Industry	163	Strike by staff who handle search facilities at Companies House, London and Cardiff; telephonists 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.
MAFF	17	Staff at Guildford Computer Centre.
Employment	8	Computer staff at Reading
TOTAL	4816	