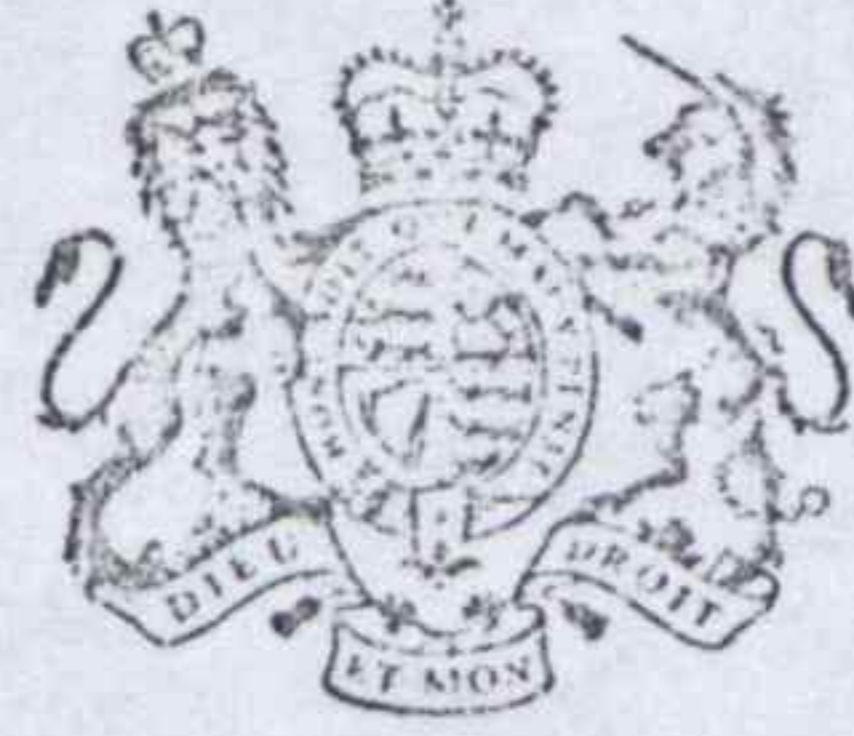


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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 August 1979

Dear Mr. Berger,

Thank you for your letter of 28 July, enclosing a further letter from Mr. Sidelmann raising additional points on the pay negotiations with his union, the Institution of Professional Civil Servants.

Since Mr Sidelmann wrote again I am glad to say that the Institution of Professional Civil Servants have agreed, after a Special Delegate Conference, that the dispute over the pay of the Professional and Technology Group should be referred to the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal. In order to deal with the union's concern that the Tribunal might not be able to consider matters of principle, which they claim are involved, we have agreed to a 2-stage reference. The Tribunal will first give an advisory opinion on those aspects which the IPCS believe form a matter of principle and subsequently, if necessary, they will be asked to award pay rates for 1979-80.

Following this agreement the IPCS have instructed their members to return to normal working at once and to take no further militant action. The Government has agreed that, where appropriate the interim 9% and 5% stages of the eventual amount due can now be paid. I am very pleased that the industrial action is now over and that this long dispute is on the road to a solution.

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I have noted Mr. Sidelmann's views on the issues which he raises. The relationship of previous settlements to the medians of the pay research evidence and the value of special factors will be central to the arguments put forward by the parties to the arbitration. In these circumstances I am sure that your constituent will understand if I do not reply in detail to the questions which will be ultimately determined by the Arbitration Tribunal.

Yours sincerely
Geraint Morgan

Geraint Morgan, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

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