

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr. Wolfson
Mr. Ingham
Mr. Duguid

Civil Service Industrial Dispute:
6 May

You should know that the Civil Service industrial action has become a little, although not dramatically, intensified today.

X | The main computer at DVLC in Swansea has been closed down because essential nitrogen for the air conditioning equipment cannot get through the picket lines, and unless a private contractor is prepared to run the blockade there will soon be large numbers of staff without work. The Ministry of Defence reports that the numbers of their staff on strike have now reached the highest figure (720) so far; and action in the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, Civil Aviation Authority continues. Prospects in the CAA in particular will be worsening in the next two days, since Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Manchester will all probably have to be closed for part of tomorrow, and may be affected again on Friday if the unions pull out staff at the London Air Traffic Control Centre. The unions may be shortening the notice they give of industrial action in the CAA from 48 hours to 24.

Meanwhile action is in hand to counter the disinformation put about by the unions of the progress of the pay claim and the Government's response to it, but I do not think we should expect this to have much visible effect in the short-term.

On X, the CSD will provide a report tomorrow on the action they propose to take.

WA 6/5

MS

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