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Private Secretary to
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
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PRIME MINISTER

cf press office
Not Ind. 2.
Henry James is in touch
with Transport and Energy
about the handling of
this. MPA 4/11.
4 June 1979

Darby - Rob.

Dear Mike

You may find it useful to have the attached summary
of the 5% reductions in services which British Rail will be
making from next Monday.

As I told you earlier today, we agreed with BR
that the cuts should not fall on major freight services (e.g.
those carrying coal to power stations) and that, although most
of the cuts would be borne by the passenger services, the aim
should be to maintain services for work and business travel and
to minimise the financial effects for the railways.

Although the cuts will be relatively minor on Southern
Region, with only three commuter services affected, the impact
in other parts of the country will be quite severe. For instance,
in Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool there will be a 50%
reduction in off-peak services, while in the Western Region (the
only wholly diesel region) 105 main line services will be cancelled.
In the London commuter area the services affected will be those
into Paddington and Marylebone, and on the Bedford-St Pancras
line.

Yours

Olivia

ans
MRS E C FLANAGAN
Private Secretary

PROPOSED CUTS IN RAIL PASSENGER SERVICES FROM 11 JUNE

Southern

Reductions on Ashford - Hastings and Portsmouth - Salisbury services, and on services from London - Hastings, East Grinstead and Uckfield.

London Midland

50% reduction in off-peak, and some reductions in peak, services.

18 services cancelled in East Midlands.

Severe cutback in Sunday services in North West.

50% reduction in North Wales services.

Scottish

Reduction in frequency of Glasgow - Edinburgh service.

Commuter trains to be reduced in length by between 33% and 50%.

Western

105 inter-city services cancelled, increasing journey times by 20 minutes between London and Bristol.

Services in South West reduced by between 15% and 25%.

Paddington - Slough service reduced by 30%.

Eastern

46 local services in Leeds withdrawn.

13 local services in Sheffield withdrawn.

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- 4 JUN 1979