



From the Private Secretary

Civil Service Department

Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ

01-273 4400 *Annie Smith*

William Rickett
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

The firm action indicated below is welcome.

I will get another report on Monday.
7 May 1981

not necessary
Mr Lambert - yours w/r 7/5
Mr Vereker TL
7/5

Dear William,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION AT DVLC

You asked for an urgent note for the Prime Minister about the industrial action difficulties at DVLC.

2. The position this morning is that a lorry with a supply of nitrogen has been brought in by the PSA but staff are preventing it being unloaded. They are forming a cordon, recording the time as private time outside the flex-time hours of official duty. Mail deliveries are still not being made by the Post Office, who are refusing to cross the picket line outside.

3. We have discussed urgently with DOE/Transport and have given them the following advice.

- 1. Consult lawyers immediately on all steps.

Subject to that -

- 2. Handling nitrogen.

a. Suspend flex-time forthwith.

b. Get police in to protect unloading. Thereafter DOE think PSA staff will handle the nitrogen. If they refuse they should be subject to TRD.

- 3. Mail.

a. Try again to get GPO to cross picket lines this week.

b. At same time, find outside contractors with a view to moving mail in not later than Monday.

c. Ensure that police are available in advance to protect entry of mail.

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

4. Meanwhile, a general warning should be issued to all staff that management intend to bring in the mail and get the computer operational again: any staff refusing to work normally will be subject to rapid TRD.

4. We regard the action recommended as no more than the proper firm response of management and thus consistent with the Cabinet decision on 30 April not to escalate action until after the union conferences.

5. I am copying this to David Edmonds (Environment) and Anthony Mayer (Transport).

Yours sincerely,

Jim Buckley.

J BUCKLEY