



BRIEFING FOR PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS : 26 JUNE 1984

COAL INDUSTRY DISPUTE

Number of men working - line to take

- Attendance on today's day shift, after making allowance for the effects of collieries on holiday, is over 1000 higher than a week ago. I hope that more men will follow the example of those who are now returning to work.

- Attendances at individual pits continue to rise:

- Bilston Glen had 38 men working yesterday
- Shirebrook has 79 men in today, a record attendance.

Background

The figures for men working this week are affected by the fact that 7 pits which would normally have men working are on holiday. However the NCB estimate that allowing for the effect of holidays, 1057 men have returned to work since last Tuesday.

A number of figures have been quoted recently for the number of miners actually working. It is best to avoid giving such a figure. It has been said that 60,000 miners are working - infact only 36,000 mineworkers who are members of the NUM are working - the 60,000 figure includes 9,000 officials, and 14,000 managers and clerks.

CONFIDENTIAL

File

old

Prime Minister (2)

AT 26/2



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
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Andrew Turnbull Esq
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26 June 1984

Dear Andrew

DISRUPTION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE SOUTH EAST ON 27 JUNE

In confirmation of my telephone conversation earlier today you will know that the South East Region of the TUC have called for a "Day of Action" tomorrow in support of the striking miners. My Secretary of State has, therefore, asked British Rail and London Transport for an assessment of the likely effects on public transport in the area.

BR will do their best to run the railway normally. They hope to operate commuter services on all routes, but there could be widespread cancellations, particularly at Euston and Kings Cross. The position on London Transport is expected to be much less serious. LT hopes to run a near normal bus service and up to 90% of underground services. We are in touch with the Metropolitan Police about any arrangements needed to keep traffic moving but there is bound to be some congestion on the roads, particularly in the morning and evening peaks.

The Secretary of State believes that our response should be cool. It is likely that a strike will alienate rather than endear the unions to Londoners and others who will be inconvenienced. The Secretary of State will be ready with suitable comment to the Press if and when appropriate.

I am copying this to the Private Secretaries to the members of the Cabinet and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

yours sincerely,

Henry Derwent

H C S DERWENT
Private Secretary

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