

19/11/81

22 10

Thursday

Prime Minister

IAN PERCIVAL

1. Herewith copy letter dated 29th October from Norman Tebbit to Michael Havers.
2. Subsequently, you agreed to the proposals set out in Norman's letter.
3. A very unhappy Ian Percival telephoned this morning to say that the proposed legislation on trade union immunities does not go nearly far enough and that he does not want to be a party topiloting such legislation through the House.
4. Ian Percival has asked to see you, and we are arranging this for next week.

13th November 1981

IAN GOW

*Industrial  
Advisory*

*MU*



CC LOD

*cc I. Gave*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

6 November 1981

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's letter of 29 October 1981 to the Attorney General about the conditions on which Sir Ian Percival might help with the forthcoming legislation on industrial relations.

She understands that the Attorney General is content with this arrangement and, on that basis, she is ready to agree to it.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Jim Nursaw (Law Officers' Department).

*CW*

*CS*

Richard Dykes, Esq.,  
Department of Employment.

CONFIDENTIAL

cc AD



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Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers QC MP  
Attorney-General  
Law Officers Department  
Royal Courts of Justice  
LONDON WC2A 2LL

29 October 1981

*D. Michael*

I am now writing, as promised, to set out the conclusions we reached in our conversation yesterday about the involvement of the Solicitor-General in the development and passage of the industrial relations legislation during this next session.

As I told you, I would find it of very great help if I could engage Ian's advice and active support in this area over the coming months, not just because of his legal knowledge but because of his experience of dealing with these matters over many years. At the same time I fully recognise your concern to preserve the proper role of the Law Officers. For them to become involved in the development of policy would clearly call the independence of their legal advice into question.

We therefore agreed that, for the purposes of this Bill only, Ian might be seconded to my Department on the clear understanding that he would not be working here in his capacity as Solicitor-General. If, during the period of this secondment, the advice of the Law Officers were needed, this would be provided by you quite independently.

I am most grateful to you for your help over this and, subject to the agreement of the Prime Minister (to whom I am copying this letter), I hope we can proceed on the basis I have outlined.

A copy of this letter also goes to the Solicitor-General.

*[Handwritten signature]*