

Transport

PRIME MINISTERThreatened Underground Strike

The NUR and the London Transport Executive have agreed to put their dispute to arbitration, so the strike is off. As I mentioned this morning, there will be a Mediation Board consisting of a Chairman appointed by ACAS, a union representative and an employer representative. They will hold a preliminary hearing on Sunday, a full hearing on Tuesday, and make their recommendations on Thursday. The arbitration is not binding, and therefore negotiations will presumably restart in a week's time. It is possible of course that the Mediation Board's recommendations will be unacceptable to one or other party, in which case there could still be a strike the week after next.

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