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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

Prime Minister ②

To note

AT 20/5

20 May 1985

Andrew Turnbull Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Andrew,

LONDON UNDERGROUND STRIKE

I wrote to you on 17 May drawing your attention to the possibility of industrial action on London Underground services.

As foreshadowed in that letter, the NUR Executive decided to ignore LRT's injunction restraining them from calling the strike without a ballot and, as a result, some 21,500 NUR men were called out on official strike from midnight last night. But over 60% of NUR members reported for duty as normal today. LRT were able to run about two thirds of their morning services and expect to run up to three quarters of services this afternoon and evening. Road traffic this morning was, predictably, heavier than normal but serious congestion arose only in the western approaches (primarily the M4) and, to the north, on the M1.

As you will know, the NUR this afternoon decided to call off their strike if management agreed not to proceed with their High Court action (which they did). There are no details yet as to the terms of the NUR's retreat - whether they have withdrawn unconditionally or whether they have merely suspended their action. That should all become clear within a day or so.

I shall, of course, keep you in touch with significant developments, and we will be providing suitable briefing for Prime Minister's questions tomorrow.

Copies of this letter go to the Private Secretaries, to all the members of the Cabinet, to the Attorney General and the Paymaster General, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

V
(over),
Richard.

R A ALLAN
Private Secretary

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