

E.R. 2

PRIME MINISTER

INDUSTRIAL ACTION ON THE RAILWAYS

You asked about the Transport Minister's availability on Tuesday and Wednesday in case you wanted an urgent meeting.

Mr. Ridley is in his constituency at Cirencester on Tuesday which is 2-3 hours from London. He will be in London on the Wednesday.

The NUR ballot results are expected on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday.

N.L.U.

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23 August 1985

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

23 August 1985

INDUSTRIAL ACTION ON THE RAILWAYS

The Prime Minister is aware of the efforts of the British Rail Board to publicise their case in the dispute with the guards and she quite appreciates that today, ballot day, may not be the time for maximum publicity effort. But she does wonder whether the Board are deploying successfully their strong case. She considers this very important, especially if the ballot goes the wrong way.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

NW

Andrew Melville, Esq.,
Department of Transport.

JB

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PRIME MINISTER

Nigel Wicks.

You may wish to be aware
of the state of play as at
yesterday. MWA 23/8

RAIL INDUSTRIAL ACTION

You will wish to note the latest position on industrial action on the railways. Attached are notes by:

Flag A - the Cabinet Office about the contingency plans which are being made.

Flag B - by Dept of Transport summarising the current state of play.

Flag C - by Department of Energy on the implications for power supplies.

At this stage there is little we can do other than note the position with the NUR vote taking place on Friday. The result will be announced on Tuesday when the NUR will also decide what to do with their vote. Transport are suggesting a stock-taking meeting on Wednesday. If you are at Scotney then I suggest that this might slip to Thursday. Caroline will raise this at the diary meeting you are holding tomorrow.

D.

22 August, 1985