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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

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Prime Minister (2)

MS 4/6

Michael Scholar Esq
Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

4 June 1982

Dear Michael,

THE RAILWAYS

Mr Howell, who is as you know out of the country, has asked me to send you this report on developments since his minute of 27 May to the Prime Minister.

At the meeting of the Railways Staff National Council on 28 May, the Board called on ASLEF to accept the recommendations on flexible rostering of Lord McCarthy's Tribunal. ASLEF refused. The Board said that they would have to impose the new rosters, but did not specify a date. The ASLEF Executive has since reiterated its position, and is instructing the Union's local representatives not to discuss proposals for the new rosters. The Board has issued instructions to its managers for bringing the new rosters into operation. The Board have confirmed to us that it is still their intention to do this from the 4 July.

At the same meeting of the RSNC, the Board made the pay offer foreshadowed in Mr Howell's minute of 27 May. The Unions rejected this.

The Board are writing today to the NUR and the other unions concerned with their offer of a review of the workshops issues; the NUR will accordingly have this before their Executive meets on Monday, 7 June.

The Board now have information of moves between the Unions to set up a meeting, probably on Wednesday, 9 June, for the purpose of concerting their response to the Board's offer on pay and productivity. Mr Howell will report further to the Prime Minister when the outcome of that meeting is known.

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Meanwhile, officials from the Department and the CPRS are pursuing with the Board the various questions identified on their tactical preparations and strategic planning.

I am sending copies of this to the Private Secretaries to the Home Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Industry, Defence, Energy, Employment and Scotland, the Chief Secretary (Treasury) and to Sir Robert Armstrong and to Mr Sparrow.

Yours Sincerely

Toby Johns

T JOHNS
Private Secretary

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