

E.R.

PRIME MINISTER

British Leyland

I have just had a further message from Patrick Jenkin's Private Secretary.

Contrary to the impression given by the news flash late last night, things went, apparently, wrong in the negotiation late on. Following the agreement between the management side and the General Secretaries of the unions, principally Kitson, Boyd and Len Murray - the union side went along to the joint negotiating committee to persuade them to recommend the settlement to the workforce on Tuesday. I understand at that point Mr. Kitson reneged and that there was a very tense atmosphere at the negotiating committee.

There was then general dismay. Michael Edwardes was quite taken aback at this outcome.

The next step is for the TUC Finance and General Purpose Committee to attempt tomorrow to lean on Kitson and TGWU. In parallel in great secrecy Michael Edwardes will be attempting to persuade Messrs Foot and Orme to <sup>lean</sup> be on the TGWU.

In consequence there will be a very messy situation at Leyland plants tomorrow. The pickets are out, but with the disarray among the unions concerned there must be maximum confusion in the minds of the workforce. The assessment is many of them are likely to stay away on Monday.

I am on the other end of the telephone to talk if you wish at any time today. But there does not seem to be any action that can be usefully taken today. That is certainly Patrick Jenkin's view, who will be watching and waiting.

1 November 1981

MICHAEL SCHOLAR



JU

*Ind Pol*



*cc Mr Ingham  
Mr Howe  
Mr Scholar  
Mr Duguid*

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Secretary of State for Industry

2 November 1981

*MAFF 2/x1*

M Pattison Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

*Dear Mike*

BL STRIKE

You might like to note that we have set up an Ops Room in Ashdown House, from which information on the latest state of play on the strike is available. The telephone numbers which will be manned from 8.00am to 8.00pm are:

212 5558  
212 0759  
212 0247

Copies go to the Private Secretaries of the following Departments: Home Office, Lord Chancellor's Office, FCO, Treasury, Paymaster General's Office, Lord President's Office, Employment, Defence, Lord Privy Seal's Office, MAFF, Environment, Scottish Office, Welsh Office, Northern Ireland Office, DHSS, Trade, Energy, Education, Transport and the Chief Secretary's Office. I would be grateful if these numbers could be made known to officials as necessary.

*Yours ever*  
*Catherine*  
CATHERINE BELL  
Private Secretary







FILE

Ind Pol.

RLH

MR SCHOLAR

cc: Miss Stephens

BL

As I told you, Industry asked us to reserve a time tomorrow evening for a possible meeting on BL.

A  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr meeting at 1645 is pencilled in the Prime Minister's diary. The Home Secretary, Industry Secretary, Chancellor and Chief Secretary are on notice for that time. The Employment Secretary is not due to return from Brussels until later in the evening, so we need to get Mr Alison. Other Ministers likely to be required are the Lord President, the Attorney-General, and the Chief Whip, but their offices were closed when I tried to contact them this evening to forewarn them.

**M. A. PATTISON**

2 November, 1981