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Home Office

cc BGA

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CABINET OFFICE
P .1844....
22 MAY 1986
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No.



c. Mr. Norgrove



J B Unwin Esq.
Cabinet Office
Whitehall
London, SW1A 2AS

Ernie Bull

The Home Office seem to have this well in hand, &

Your reference 'the outlook' is

Our reference *reasonably summary. But I*

Date 22 May 1986 *should*

be grateful if you would cast a critical eye over it.

22/5

Dear Sir,

PRISON OFFICERS' DISPUTE

As you know, Eric Caines has asked me to respond to your letter of 8 May.

We have reviewed and continue to review our contingency arrangements for police assistance in the event of industrial dispute. Each prison governor has already submitted a report of how well these arrangements worked in the case of his establishment during the events of 30 April to 2 May. Any points of purely local concern are being pursued at that level. Each prison regional director is also reporting with his perceptions of events, and particular issues are being raised with individual Chief Constables. We have provided the Home Secretary with a report on how things appear from the prisons end.

The guidelines for Chief Constables are not a matter of which the Home Office has direct control. Chief Constables were asked to send in reports and observations to ACPO by 21 May. As soon as these are all to hand and ACPO have responded to the Home Office request for a review we propose to discuss with ACPO those points of general concern which have emerged from our own analysis of the events.

The review of local contingency arrangements for liaison between police and prisons is thus well advanced, and indeed in many respects already completed. The more wide-ranging consideration of the ACPO guidelines is less far advanced. We have identified some need for clarification of the police interpretation of the circumstances in which they can be called upon to assist in restoring order in establishments. We await Home Office Ministerial guidance on the need for, and merits of, exploring possibilities of support beyond that envisaged in the ACPO guidelines. I expect the Home Secretary will await the results of the discussions with ACPO before taking a firm view.

I understand that you are already briefed on the provision of camps. Rolleston is available for use if required, senior management appointed and the rest of the management team earmarked. Work required to bring Nescliffe into use has been assessed and can be put in hand if the need arises.

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The POA are at present in conference. The NEC take the view that a further ballot is needed to remove their remit to take industrial action in furtherance of the principle that manning levels should be negotiable. We expect the ballot to take place immediately after the conference. While the outcome must be uncertain, our expectation is that the prospect of industrial action is receding and we do not expect to be coming back to the CCU in the immediate future.

*Yours sincerely,
S G Norris*

S G NORRIS

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