

14 January 2002

To: All Full-Time Officials; Secretaries
of Councils of Trade Unions; and Members
of Various NIC Sub-Committees.

Dear Colleague

WORK STOPPAGE – FRIDAY 18 JANUARY 2002

Following a number of emergency meetings with the Northern Ireland Committee and representatives of public sector unions, the NIC has agreed the following:

1. **A two-minute silence at 12 noon on Tuesday 15 January.** This silence will coincide with the beginning of the funeral service of Daniel McColgan, the murdered post office worker and a member of the Communication Workers' Union. However, this two-minute silence is also designed to remember all workers who have lost their lives through terrorist activities or sectarian violence and is intended to include members of the security services and police service.
2. **Friday 18 January:** Representatives of the NIC met the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on Monday 14 January and informed them of their intention to call for a stoppage of work from 12 noon on Friday 18 January and to hold a rally at the City Hall, Belfast, commencing at 1pm. There will also be rallies in Enniskillen and L'Derry also commencing at 1pm. The Ministers were assured that all necessary emergency cover would be provided and that public transport would also be provided to take workers home who attend these rallies called by Congress.

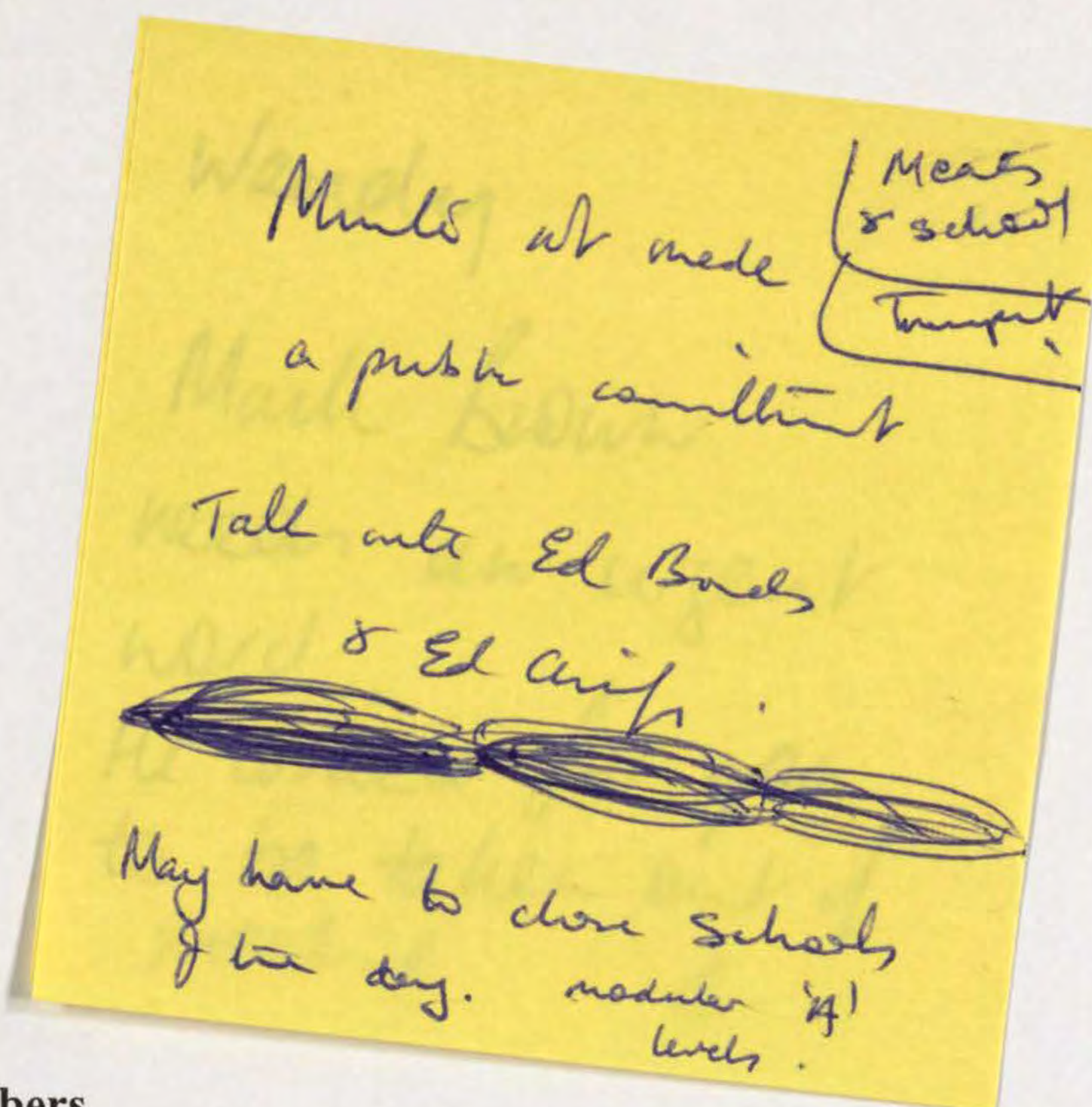
The full co-operation of all affiliates is sought for this very important expression of trade union solidarity. Contact has been made with both the CBI and the NI Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and meetings have been arranged with the Head of the NI Civil Service and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Both of these meetings are taking place on Tuesday 15 January.

For further information please contact either myself or Tom Gillen in this office.

This correspondence is being copied to the various media outlets and also to the OFM/DFM, Secretary of State, Head of the NI Civil Service, CBI, NICCI and the NI Council for Voluntary Action.

Yours sincerely

Peter Bunting
Assistant General Secretary



cc: Miss Johnston - em

FROM: CAROL MOORE

DATE: 14 JANUARY 2002

TO: PS/MR LOUGHRAN - EM

ICTU DEMONSTRATION AND STOPPAGE

We spoke briefly about the public demonstration and half day Province wide stoppage apparently planned by the NIC/ICTU for Friday. You asked for advice regarding the anticipated request for Mr Loughran's support. The call for the demonstration etc is, I understand, in response to the continuing violence in North Belfast and in particular the recent killing of a postal worker.

This is clearly sensitive territory. In the past the NICS response has been to respond sensitively, to allow staff to attend lunchtime meetings but, given the needs of the business and maintaining service to our customers, this has been subject to local management discretion.

While I believe it is appropriate to indicate 'support' to the lunchtime demonstration along the lines of previous precedent I do not consider it appropriate for NICS to endorse the half day stoppage. Our role is to provide services to the people of Northern Ireland and we must continue to do so. Clearly the death of the young postman is tragic but sad though it is to say he is not the only public sector worker to have been killed during the last 30 years. In that time and in the face of atrocities close to us the NICS has continued to serve all the people of Northern Ireland impartially and we must, I believe, continue to do so. It would be inappropriate to be seen to support a strike.

I understand that a meeting has been scheduled with NIC/ICTU representatives to discuss the planned action, is scheduled for tomorrow at 10.00 am. Wendy Johnston will accompany Mr Loughran. In the meantime, as requested, I attach a draft letter for Mr Loughran to send to Permanent Secretary colleagues, regarding the lunchtime rally, should a request for his support be forthcoming is attached for consideration.

Carol Moore

C P MOORE

DRAFT

FROM: GERRY LOUGHRAN
14 JANUARY 2002

**cc: PS/First Minister/
PS/Deputy First Minister
Mr Watkins, NIO
Mrs Moore
PEOs**

TO: NI PERMANENT SECRETARIES

NIC/ICTU ANTI-VIOLENCE RALLY

As you may be aware the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions has called for a public rally and half day stoppage this Friday in response to the latest upsurge in violence including the murder of the young postal worker Daniel McColgan and the death threats against postal workers and teachers.

The lunchtime rally will take place in Belfast City Centre on Friday 18 January 2002 at 1:00pm.

NIC/ICTU have been in touch with me to ask for our co-operation in allowing staff to participate in this occasion. I have indicated that the NI Departments will be pleased to co-operate with regard to the lunchtime rally in the same way that we have done with previous anti-violence rallies. I do not, however, feel that it would be appropriate to endorse a half-day stoppage by civil servants.

It is important that in the current climate Departments and their Agencies are not seen to be insensitive in the handling of absences to attend the lunchtime rally. I will naturally look to you to ensure that managers exercise judgement whether staff can attend during their lunch break taking account of the need to maintain essential services to the public.

I would therefore be grateful if you could ask managers to treat requests from staff to take part in the lunch-time rally as sympathetically as possible.

G LOUGHRAN