

SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO CIVIL UNREST

NOTE FOR THE FILE

This issue was discussed on 20 May 1981 with Mr Jennings. He decided that:-

- a. the Department's Circulars 1971/86 and 1973/70 gave school authorities and Principals discretion to close the school in the interests of the safety of the children, as they were "those on the spot and in the best position to form a **judgment**". Where they had chosen to do this the Department should fully support them and approve an exceptional closure;
- b. where, however, school authorities choose to close the school, or teachers absented themselves, as a form of political protest, they should firstly be asked their reasons in writing. If the school was open, the names of the protesting teachers should be taken and passed to Computer Control Unit for consideration of **withholding** a day's pay for each day of protest. If the school was closed, the Department should inform the school authorities that it is not prepared to approve a reduction in the number of days worked by the school.

Wendons'
27 May 81