

BA

PRIME MINISTER

DOCK LABOUR SCHEME

The first day verdict is that things have gone as well as we could reasonably have expected. The position is summarised in the reporting notes from the Department of Employment (Flag A) and the Department of Transport (Flag B).

You will see from the DE note that Mr. Fowler's monitoring meetings have already been instituted. But we also need to formalise the MISC Group that you will Chair.

I attach at Flag C a minute from Sir Robin Butler on this. He recommends that MISC 139 should be established, and on balance it would be best to have a wide membership. The alternative would be to keep the core membership quite small - say just include those without an asterisk in Robin's minute - and then to invite other Ministers to attend as required.

We also need to consider when the first meeting of MISC 139 should be held. No firm decision is necessary until next week. But I am holding a time in the diary for next Wednesday, which currently looks about right; we will then have seen the results of the first few days, and it looks as if the TGWU will be holding their Delegate Conference on Tuesday.

Conclusion

- i) Content for Robin Butler formally to establish MISC 139?
- ii) On membership:
 - content with the full list Robin proposes?
 - or
 - would you prefer a smaller core membership with others invited as necessary?
- iii) Content provisionally to plan for a first meeting on Wednesday?

P. GRAY

7 APRIL 1989

Yes

Discussed with PM
his speed makes
as noted in FOLB's
note.
RAC 19/4.



1 of 14
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29B(A-B)

SECRET AND CMO UNTIL 31.12.89
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Secretary of State

Paul Gray Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

7 April 1989

Dear Paul,

DOCKS : MONITORING MEETING, FRIDAY 7 APRIL 1989

My Secretary of State chaired the first meeting this morning. Employment and Transport Ministers and officials attended, as well as officials from the Home Office, Department of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, and the Scottish and Northern Ireland Offices.

The key points which emerged were these:

- (a) all had gone smoothly in Parliament. Both the White Paper and the Bill had now been published. The Opposition had been taken completely by surprise;
- (b) trade union reaction had been less than expected so far. Again, they had been taken completely by surprise, so that the key TGWU spokesman was in fact abroad. We understand that the TGWU are planning a national ports delegate conference early next week, possibly on Tuesday, at which a decision could be taken to ballot on a national strike. In other words it seems likely that the Union will follow the proper procedures;



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Secretary of State
for Employment

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- (c) as at 9:30 am, there was disruption at 5 ports: Tilbury, Southampton, Liverpool, Fleetwood, Glasgow. We have since heard that Bristol, Sharpness and Garston (near Liverpool) are on strike. Most strikes appear to be for a day or the weekend at most. All Sealink passenger ferries were working as were all non-Scheme ports. Department of Transport will be issuing a full situation report today;
- (d) Press reaction had, on the whole, been very positive, both in the London based press, in the Scottish press (where there is interest in the current dispute at Aberdeen) and also at the local level. That said, it was obviously essential that the Government maintained a high profile over the weekend and in particular that the positive message - that the abolition of the Scheme would mean more, and more secure, jobs in our ports industry - got across;
- (e) the port employers had been surprised and delighted. The largest port employer, Associated British Ports, had already issued a supportive press notice and more such statements will follow from other employers. My Secretary of State has since met the National Association of Port Employers, who have confirmed that they are solidly behind the Government's plan to abolish the Scheme and ready to face any industrial action. My Secretary of State stressed the importance he attached to employers making positive statements about the future of the port industry and its employees, both to the general public and specifically to their employees themselves;
- (f) it was agreed that the situation would be kept under close scrutiny over the weekend. The next meeting of the monitoring group will be at 9:30 am on Monday 10 April.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Foreign Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Transport, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Minister of Agriculture, the Attorney General, and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,

Clive Norris

CLIVE NORRIS
Principal Private Secretary

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ceph ✓

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB
01 276 3000

My ref :

Your ref :

Paul Gray Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

-7 APR 1989

Dear Paul

PORTS INDUSTRIAL ACTION: SITUATION REPORT FOR FRIDAY, 7
APRIL

/ As agreed, we will be producing a daily sit-rep on industrial
action in the ports. I attach the first of these for Friday
7 April.

Separate copies have been sent to all relevant Departments
for the attention of their Ministers.

Yours,

Katherine

KATHERINE ORRELL
Private Secretary

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PS/Secretary of State

cc	Minister of State	PS/Secretary of State (DEmp)
	PS/Lord Brabazon	PS/Secretary of State (Welsh Office)
	PS/ Mr Bottomley	Mr Whybrow (DEmp)
	PS/Sir Alan Bailey	Brig Budd (Cabinet Office)
	Mr Sunderland	Mr Chilcote (Home Office)
	Mr Dempster	Mr Spivey (DTI)
	Mr Noulton	Mr Cassell (MOD)
	Mr Lyness	Mr Meekings (MAFF)✓
	Mr Coates	Mr Mortimer (Treasury)
	Mr Crane	Mr McConnell (N Ireland)
	Mr Fells	Mr Burnside (Scottish Office)
	Mr Kitchen	Mr Atkinson (DEn)
	Miss Samuel	Mr Grieg (Law Offices)
	Miss Buchanan	Mr Hadfield (Welsh Office)
	Miss Russell-Smith	
	Duty Officer (P1/080)	
	Mr Findley (Ports Office, Scotland)	

PORTS INDUSTRIAL ACTION: SIT REP FOR FRIDAY 7th APRIL

1. At the meeting with the Secretary of State for Employment this morning, I reported that registered dock workers had walked out of the following ports :

Southampton (Container Terminal)
Tilbury
Liverpool
Fleetwood
Glasgow

Since then dockers at the following ports have also walked out :

Garston
Bristol
Sharpness
Manchester Ship Canal Co at Runcorn and Ellesmere Port
(but not Salford)

and following a meeting this morning the strike at Southampton Container Terminal has spread to the whole port.

2. In addition 2 private wharves in Manchester are out, namely:

Manisty Wharf, Ellesmere Port
Weston Port, Ocean Port Services

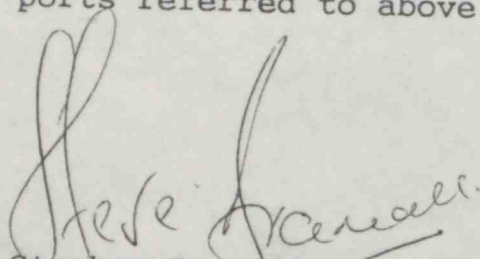
RDWs at a number of private wharves along the River Thames have also walked out :

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Deep River Wharf, Purfleet
Convoy"s, Deptford
Denton's Wharf, South Bank
Dartford International Ferry Terminal
Pheonix Wharf
Seacon Wharf (unconfirmed)

3. We understand that all dockers on strike at all these ports are expected to return to work on Monday morning, It is worth underlining that no non-scheme port has suffered any industrial action.
4. At Glasgow, the 49 registered dock workers on strike have been joined by 6 non-registered workers (for example mobile crane drivers). Glasgow comes under the Clyde Port Authority, but other ports of the Clyde Port Authority are working normally, including Ardrossan and Greenock.
5. The general view of the port authorities we spoke to was that most RDWs would wait until a ballot had been taken before taking any industrial action. We understand that the TGWU's national docks committee meets on Monday to decide what action to take.
6. There have also been a couple of reports of difficulties with ships being accepted at some ports on strike and being diverted to other UK ports. For example, a Russian passenger ship destined for Southampton is being diverted to Tilbury where it will be handled by NUR members. Milford Haven are also understood to be accepting some diversions. Traffic from Northern Ireland destined for Liverpool is also, we understand, being diverted to Holyhead. Two vessels for Bristol have been diverted to Tees and Hartlepool and Exmouth.
7. I would recommend that any enquiries received by this Department's press office or duty officer on the Government's proposals should be referred to the Department of Employment; but that, if asked, we would confirm our understanding that the ports referred to above are on strike until Monday.


Stephen Bramall
Ports Division
S2/03
Ext 276 5777

7 April 1989

P. S. We have just heard
(5.15 pm) third-hand stories
of her Country asking all
RDWs on Strike to go back to
work immediately until a ballot
is held.

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The following information was obtained from the records of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, regarding the land grant to the State of California for the purpose of establishing a State Park.

The land grant was made by the United States Government to the State of California in 1850, under the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1850, entitled "An Act to provide for the settlement of the public lands of the United States."

The land grant was made for the purpose of establishing a State Park, and the land was to be used for the purpose of establishing a State Park, and the land was to be used for the purpose of establishing a State Park.

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ref. A089/900

MR TURNBULL

Dock Labour Scheme

Following the decision to abolish the Dock Labour Scheme taken in Cabinet this morning, the Prime Minister may wish to set up a group of Ministers which can meet as necessary under her chairmanship to keep developments under review.

2. There is a wide variety of departmental interests which may be affected. In order to cover all aspects the following membership is needed. If the Prime Minister felt that this Committee was too large, those asterisked could be omitted and asked when necessary. On balance, however, in the interests of keeping all concerned in touch I suggest the full list:

The Chancellor of the Exchequer

= The Home Secretary

The Secretary of State for Wales*

The Secretary of State for Defence*

= The Secretary of State for Employment

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland*

= The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

= The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*

The Secretary of State for Scotland*

= The Secretary of State for Transport

= The Lord President of the Council

The Secretary of State for Energy*

= The Attorney General

If the Prime Minister is content, I will send out minutes of appointment to members of the Group (which would be known as MISC 139).

F.R.B.

ROBIN BUTLER

7 April 1989