



From the Secretary of State

The Rt Hon James Prior MP
 Secretary of State for Employment
 Caxton House
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 LONDON
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20 October 1980

Dear Jim .

at the dinner

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GREEN PAPER ON TRADE UNION IMMUNITIES

You are taking account of the points made by Keith Joseph and Geoffrey Howe for the Green Paper. I must add a further one, namely Nawala-type blacking, by which I mean blacking by an extraneous party of a ship when there has been no dispute between the owner and the crew.

We discussed this at E Committee on 24 March and agreed that it should be reserved for action in a later Bill. It seems important that the Green Paper should announce this decision (because it would obviously look odd to introduce the legislation upon which we have decided if we had omitted the point from the Green Paper in the meantime).

Of course the point could go wider than shipping. Many would argue that it is wrong in any industry to expose employees and employers who have had no dispute with one another to disabling industrial action by a third party; and you or other colleagues might think the Green Paper should canvass more general remedies. My own

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concern however is that the document should make clear our decision in the one area where we have firmly decided to deal with the problem, namely merchant shipping.

I therefore suggest that our officials agree the appropriate wording for the Green Paper.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, our colleagues in E, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
John.

JOHN NOTT

20 OCT 1980

