

DSG



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 September 1984

Dear Henry,

TRADE UNION ACT 1984

In his minute to the Prime Minister of 11 September the Solicitor General gave his views on the way in which Part II of the Trade Union Act 1984 would be likely to operate after coming into force on 26 September. The Prime Minister has subsequently received a copy of a note setting out the legal advice received by a private sector company in relation to the dock strike. A copy is attached.

It seems to the Prime Minister that paragraph 3 of the note appears to hold out greater possibility of successful legal action where there are acts by the union to keep an existing strike going.

She would be grateful for further advice from the Attorney General and the Solicitor General which takes account of the opinions expressed in the note. Could this also consider the question of who might successfully bring such action and whether this would include union members who are on strike but who, for one reason or another, feel unable to return to work.

I am copying this letter to David Normington (Department of Employment) and Peter Gregson (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely  
Andrew Turnbull

Andrew Turnbull

Henry Steel, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,  
Law Officers Department.

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