



SECRET

Prime Minister

(2) *Tod Red*
cc JV
9

P.0819

MR SCHOLAR

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*To note that you will
be consulted about Ports policy
/ Dock Labour Scheme somewhat
later than earlier envisaged. I*

STUDY OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION IN THE DOCKS

suspect that you will want to have

The Prime Minister agreed (your minute of 12 May to Mr Wright) that there should be an Official Group in the MISC series under Cabinet Office chairmanship to carry out a study relating to industrial action in the docks. The Group (MISC 78) is now completing this work, and its report should be available for submission to the Prime Minister and other Ministers concerned towards the end of next week.

2. The MISC 78 Report is complementary to the Interdepartmental Review of Ports Policy which the Secretary of State for Transport sent to the Secretary of State for Industry, as Chairman of E(EA), with copies to the Prime Minister and E(EA) members on 30 June. It is very relevant to one of the main issues raised by the Review, ie the Government's tactics in relation to the National Dock Labour Scheme about which both the Secretary of State for Employment and the Secretary of State for Trade have commented in their letters of 9 and 12 July respectively.

3. It therefore seems sensible that the MISC 78 report and the Interdepartmental Review of Ports Policy should be taken together at a meeting of E(EA) which we are trying to arrange for Tuesday 3 August. I should be grateful if you would confirm that the Prime Minister sees no difficulty about this. I should of course ensure that E(EA)'s discussion and conclusions were reported to the Prime Minister, and she would have an opportunity to intervene at that stage, if she wished to do so.

PLG

P L GREGSON

I.C.F. 2. PA

22 July 1982

*Note
Told Mr Gregson Prime
Minister content.*

MCS 20/7

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*a word with Mr Tesbit
and Mr Howell on the
important political points
after the E(EA) discussion
(which will be detailed) has taken place.
MCS 23/7*



22 JUL 1982

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