

CONFIDENTIAL

LECNO

NRPM

AT 14/3



Prime Minister

NATIONAL DOCK LABOUR SCHEME AND THE PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY

I have circulated to E(A) a paper asking my colleagues to decide whether or not to proceed to abolition of the National Dock Labour Scheme.

Not Yet Received

The smouldering financial crisis at the Port of London Authority may blow up at any time. Last year we staved it off by giving the Docklands Corporation some £5m to buy land from the PLA. Before we have to deal with the next crisis, we must be clear where we stand on the strategic issue.

Over the past 3 months I have had 3 meetings with the Secretary of State for Employment and the Chief Secretary on the way forward. It would be wrong for me to delay any longer in putting the major issue before colleagues.

I hope very much therefore that my paper could be taken at the meeting of E(A) arranged for 20 March.

I am sending copies of this to members of E(A) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

NICHOLAS RIDLEY
13 March 1984

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13 MAY 1984

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