


**Transport
and General
Workers Union**

Prime Minister

*I have sent a copy
of this to Employment and
Transport. I will put advice
on how you should reply tomorrow.*



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12.16/9

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OUR REF AME/AK/JS

TELEPHONE 01-828 7788 TELEGRAMS TRANSUNION LONDON SW1 TELEX No 919009

YOUR REF

September 16, 1980

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.

Dear Prime Minister,

No doubt you will have received a detailed report from the Under Secretary of State for Employment, Patrick Mayhew, following our meeting with him on September 9 when we discussed fully the current industrial dispute in the Port of Liverpool and its national implications.

Employment 15 12 11/9

A meeting of our National Docks and Waterways Committee was held yesterday, September 15, where the following statement was unanimously passed, and subsequently endorsed by our National Docks Delegate Conference. The Union's General Executive Council have formally given their support.

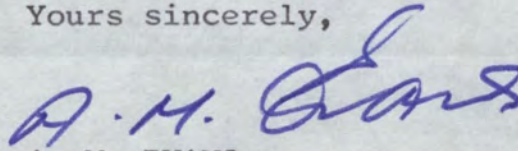
"The National Docks and Waterways Committee discussed a report that at the Port of Liverpool the services of the 178 registered dock workers would be terminated on September 30 by the two registered port employers - consequent upon them ceasing cargo-handling activities and the refusal of the remaining individual employers to accept these men into their employment through allocation by the Liverpool Local Dock Labour Board - and considered that the action of the Liverpool Port Employers would extend nationally to other registered employers.

The action of the Port Employers is in breach of the Jones/Aldington Committee decision of July 25 1972: "that the Temporary Unattached Register be eliminated now and in the future", which was accepted by the NJC for the Port Transport Industry.

The National Committee therefore recommends that the General Executive Council sanction national strike action, to include Dock Labour Scheme and Non-Scheme ports, with effect from September 22, 1980, and that the official strike action shall remain in force until the National Port Employers agree that in future registered dock workers will not be returned to the TUR and they confirm in writing that the TUR is eliminated, except for the strict purposes of administering disciplinary procedures within the terms of the National Dock Labour Scheme."

You may be assured that we were very much concerned that we were left with little alternative but to endorse the decision, particularly having regard to the Port of Liverpool Employers not being prepared to accept the NDLB's recommendation, but nevertheless I should advise you that the Union is prepared to have discussions with the employers immediately or at any time in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



A. M. EVANS
General Secretary



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JIM

10 DOWNING STREET

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From the Private Secretary

23 September 1980

In her absence on an official visit to Greece and Yugoslavia, the Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 16 September informing her of a statement by the National Docks and Waterways Committee of the Transport and General Workers Union and endorsed by a National Docks Delegate Conference.

The Prime Minister was glad to learn subsequently that the threatened strike action was not proceeded with.

J. P. LANKESTER

Moss Evans, Esq.

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Tim Lankester Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

23 September 1980

Dear Mr,

As requested in the note from the Duty Clerk of
... 17 September, I enclose a draft reply to Mr
Evans' letter to the Prime Minister.

I am copying this to Barbara Riddell (MoT).

Yours truly,

ANDREW HARDMAN
Private Secretary

DRAFT REPLY TO MR MOSS EVANS (TGWU) FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY SIGNATURE

in her absence on an official visit to Greece and Yugoslavia,

1 The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 16 September informing her of a statement by the National Docks and Waterways Committee of the Transport and General Workers Union, ^{and} endorsed by a National Docks Delegate Conference.

2 The Prime Minister was glad to learn subsequently that the threatened strike action was not proceeded with.

PRIME MINISTER

Liverpool Port

Mr. Prior's officials saw the employers last night and explained our proposals for improving the severance payments. Mr. Fowler and his officials saw the Mersey Dock and Harbour Company and gave the assurance that we would take into account the costs of their temporarily taking on redundant dockers in the review which is currently being undertaken. As a result of these initiatives, MDHC have told us privately that they will accommodate the T&GWU and not introduce a Temporarily Unattached Register. The employers in the rest of the country will certainly welcome this, and the T&GWU will be told of the decision either tonight or at the National Joint Council meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning.

As a result of what was decided last night, therefore, it seems likely that the strike will be called off.

17 September 1980



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BF -

10 DOWNING STREET

Monday

Dear Mr. ...

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I have acknowledged ^{19/9}

Best not to reply

until we know the

outcome of tomorrow's

talks.

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17/9