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Title:

Press statement from the Minister for Labor, and immigration: International Labour
Convention on social repercussions of new methods of cargo handling in docks

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press statement

FROM THE MINISTER FOR LABOR,
AND IMMIGRATION
MR. CLYDE CAMERON

For print and broadcast
news media use:

26 JUNE 1974

I am pleased to announce that on 25 June at the International Labour Conference in Geneva Australia ratified International Labour Convention No 137 on the social repercussions of new methods of cargo handling in docks.

Australia has now ratified 40 ILO Conventions and is the first member of the ILO to ratify Convention No 137 which was adopted last year.

The main objectives of Convention No 137 are to secure for dock workers a full share in the benefits offered by new methods of cargo handling and to ensure continuing improvement through such means as regularisation of employment and stabilisation of income. The Convention provides that measures relating to these and other aspects of dock work including safety and health should be planned and taken concurrently with the planning and introduction of new methods.

It is particularly significant and pleasing that Australia has lodged the first ratification of Convention No 137. This is further evidence of the importance which the Government attaches to proper planning of the introduction of technical change and to ensuring that the interests of those working in industries affected are properly recognised and protected.

Our ratification also indicates that Australian law and practice on dock labour are among the most advanced in the world and are in accord with the most recent international labour standards adopted for this crucial area of employment.

It is also pleasing to recall that the Federal Secretary of the Waterside Workers' Federation, Mr C H Fitzgibbon, the Chairman of the Association of Employers of Waterside Labour, Mr C L Craig and the Director of the Australian Stevedoring Industry Authority, Mr B J O'Connor, played an important role in the drafting of the Convention at the ILO Conference in 1972 and 1973.

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26 June 1974

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