MT.

47.21

Part 1

CONFIDENTIAL FILING

Disaster at Hillsborough Stadium, Sheffield, 15 April 1989.

DISASTERS

April 1989

[Unattached folder: 'The Star' Special Edition, 16.4.89]

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
~~17.4.89~~							
~~26.7.89~~							
Part ends							

S 3003

PREM 19/2620

HMSO Dd8953031 6/88 C60 GP2265 CCN13412 (3932)

PART 1 ends:-

CAS to IM 26.7.89

PART 2 begins:-

CAS to PM 1.8.89

E.R.

19th August 1 August.

Critical.

PRIME MINISTER

PUBLICATION OF THE TAYLOR REPORT INTO HILLSBOROUGH

You will want to know that the interim Taylor report into the Hillsborough tragedy will be sent to the Government on Tuesday. The Home Secretary wishes to publish this before the Football season begins and plans to do so on 4 August.

He expects to have a meeting of Ministerial colleagues as soon as possible next week to decide whether to publish the interim report as early as 4 August, whether to consult the police (whom the report is likely to criticise) beforehand and what the Government reaction should be.

The Home Office do not know what the interim report says but understand that it will concentrate on the immediate lessons to be drawn from the tragedy and will not touch on wider issues such as all-seated stadia and football ID cards.

The Home Office will send you a copy of the report as soon as it is received and will keep you closely in touch.

CAS

Caroline Slocock
26 July 1989



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 May 1989

HILLSBOROUGH: MESSAGE FROM MEXICAN PRESIDENT

Thank you for your letter of 18 May about the message from President Salinas. I am sure the Prime Minister will be content for the proposed reply to issue.

C. D. Powell

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T94d/89

IMMEDIATE

ZCZC
UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE MEXICO CITY
TELNO
OF 181245Z MAY 89

HILLSBOROUGH : MESSAGE FROM MEXICAN PRESIDENT

1. President Salinas has sent a letter of condolence dated 17 April (received here 16 May) to the Prime Minister concerning the Hillsborough disaster. Please convey the following reply:

QUOTE. I was most grateful for your kind message of condolence following the Hillsborough tragedy. Your sympathy and that of the Mexican people is very much appreciated. UNQUOTE.

HOWE

YYYY

NNNN

JOGADP MCAD J WATERTON 270 2478

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T94 c/89

T

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

TRANSLATION OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT SALINAS

Excellency

On behalf of myself and the people of Mexico allow me to express my sincere condolences following the tragedy on 15 April at the Sheffield Stadium.

I ask Your excellency to convey regret to the families of those who died in this tragic incident.

JODAOL

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 May 1989

Dear Charles

Hillsborough: Message from Mexican President

President Salinas has sent the Prime Minister a letter of condolence on the Hillsborough disaster. A translation / is enclosed. Although dated 17 April it was forwarded by the Mexican Embassy only on 16 May.

/ I enclose a draft acknowledgement in the form of a telegram to Mexico City.

Yours ever

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T93a/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 May 1989

Dear Mr. President,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Senhor José Sarney

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T91Tc/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 May 1989

Dear Mr President,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Dr. Rodrigo Borja Cevallos

Already "T"
Mr Shaw

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 May 1989

Dear Mr. President

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency President Hussain Muhammad Ershad

cc Appointments

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL, Liverpool, L1 7AZ

051 709 6271

From the Dean: The Very Reverend Derrick Walters

-
Rt Hon M Thatcher MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1

R415

MT

2 May 1989

(4)

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your kind letter but most of all for you and Mr Thatcher coming last Saturday and spending time caring for the bereaved.

I know from the comments I have received how much that this was appreciated, not only by the families but by many in the city.

I hope there will be opportunity, ere long, for you to visit us again on an happier occasion, perhaps in connection with our College development.

With very many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Derrick Walters

Dean.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T80/89

UNCLASSIFIED

024174
MDLOAN 7620

SUBJECT & MASTER
OPS.

UNCLASSIFIED
FM FCO
TO PRIORITY DHAKA
TELNO 199
OF 281939Z APRIL 89

MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER FROM PRESIDENT ERSHAD
1. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RECEIVED A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FROM ERSHAD ABOUT THE HILLSBOROUGH DISASTER. PLEASE PASS ON THE FOLLOWING REPLY:
BEGINS:
I WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY RECEIVED VIA YOUR HIGH COMMISSIONER, ABOUT THE TRAGEDY AT HILLSBOROUGH. I HAVE ARRANGED FOR YOUR CONDOLENCES TO BE PASSED ON TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES, WHO I KNOW WILL DRAW COMFORT FROM YOUR KIND WORDS.
ENDS
2. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.

HOWE

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION 29

MAIN 29

LIMITED
SAD
PROTOCOL
PS

PS/LORD GLENARTHUR
MR GILLMORE
MR MCLAREN

NNNN

CC/C

000

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 April 1989

GR

Need reply please

GR

Dear Charles

Message to the Prime Minister from President Ershad of Bangladesh

/ I enclose a copy of a message to the Prime Minister from President Ershad about the Hillsborough disaster / and a draft reply. A copy of the message has been passed to the Department of the Environment.

Yours ever

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification	Caveat	Precedence
UNCLASSIFIED		PRIORITY

ZCZC
TC
CAVEAT
FM
TO
TELNO
OF
AND TO

ZCZC
UNCLASSIFIED

FM FCO
TO PRIORITY DHAKA
TELNO
OF 281300Z APRIL 89

MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER FROM PRESIDENT ERSHAD

1. The Prime Minister has received a message of condolence from Ershad about the Hillsborough disaster. Please on the following reply:

Begins:

I was most grateful for your ~~kind~~ message of sympathy received via your High Commissioner, about the tragedy at Hillsborough. I have arranged for your condolences to be passed on to the bereaved families, who I know will draw comfort from your kind words.

Ends.

2. There will be no signed original.

HOWE

YYYY
MAIN
MINIMAL
SAD
PROTOCOL

YYYY
MAIN
ADDITIONAL
NNNN

		Catchword: PS	
File number	Dept: SAD	Drafted by (Block capitals): SARA PICKERING	Telephone no: 270 3035
Authorised for despatch by:	Initials	Date/time	
For COD use only	Comcen reference	Telegram number	Processed by

Printed in the UK for HMSO 11/88 DdFCO0295 C1500 2708

YFB6/C037B

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification	Caveat	Precedence
UNCLASSIFIED		PRIORITY

<<<<

<<<<

PS

PS/LORD GLENARTHUR

MR GILLMORE

MR MCLAREN

NNNN

///

Printed in the UK for HMSO 4/88 Dd8107334 C50027381

YF3 7

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

CONFIDENTIAL

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

27 April 1989

Prime Minister (2)

You have a meeting of Ministers fixed for 9 May on the Football Bill but this letter is more encouraging than the previous report of Lord Justice Taylor's views

Dear Alan

HILLSBOROUGH ENQUIRY

Sir Clive Whitmore spoke to Lord Justice Taylor this morning to ascertain what he was likely to say to the press within the next few days about whether his interim report was likely to address the national membership scheme. Sir Clive reminded Sir Peter of the difficulties faced by the Government over the Football Spectators Bill.

Sir Peter told Sir Clive that he would not say publicly that his interim report was unlikely to address the national membership schemes and he would not volunteer any comment on this issue to the press. If asked he would say that membership cards were clearly part of his remit and that he would proceed as expeditiously as possible. But it was too early to say precisely when he would be able to give his views on the subject.

Copies go to Andrew Turnbull (No 10), Stephen Catling (Lord President's Office), Nick Gibbons (Lord Privy Seal's Office) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely

Catherine Bearman

for C J WALTERS

Alan Ring, Esq
Private Secretary
Department of the Environment

CONFIDENTIAL

DISASTERS. Disaster at Hillsborough
Ap 1989



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86W/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

SAPS-LOO-H11

N° 36

cc RC

The Brazilian Embassy present their compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and request that the following message be conveyed to the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister:

"In the name of the Brazilian Government and people, I beg you to accept my sincere condolences for the Hillsborough Stadium disaster. Highest consideration.

José Sarney
President of the Federative
Republic of Brazil"

The Brazilian Embassy avail themselves of the opportunity to renew to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurance of their highest consideration.

London, April , 1989.

EMBAIXADA DA REPÚBLICA FEDERATIVA DO BRASIL
ORDEM E PROGRESSO
LONDRES

LCF/jp

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

P/A

27 April 1989

Dear Mr Holman

Thank you for your recent letter to the Prime Minister about the disaster at Hillsborough. I have been asked to reply.

You wrote as an eye witness and long time football supporter. I am sure that your thoughtful comments and suggestions will prove useful to the Inquiry which has been set up under the Chairmanship of Lord Justice Taylor to investigate the events of Hillsborough and to make recommendations. I have therefore forwarded your letter to Mr R Whalley, Secretary to the Enquiry, who can be contacted at this address.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Bannister

MISS C J BANNISTER

Philip Holman, Esq
19 Crown Nest Lane
Bingley
West Yorkshire
BD16 4HN

File ECC

cc Fco

PRIME MINISTER

PERSONAL MESSAGE

T86v/89

SUBJECT & MASTER OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 April, 1989.

Dear Mr. President,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Monsieur Paul Biya, G.C.M.G.

L

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. T864/89

OPSEC MASTER
SUBJECT
DISASTERS: Hillsborough
April 89

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 April 1989

Dear Mr. President,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi

Ale cc
cc FCO +
letter

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86+/89

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

SUBJECT cc OPS
MASTER.

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 April 1989

Dear Brian.

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Warm regards.

Yours ever

Margaret

The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, M.P.

10

Already T'd on 21/4/89

Cable ECL after + letter

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 April 1989

Dear Mr. President,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Monsieur Abdou Diouf

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 April 1989

HILLSBOROUGH

I enclose a few more replies to messages from Foreign Heads of State and Government.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for them to be despatched.

C D POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

16/5

FILE 2A

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 April 1989

I attach a letter from a spectator at Hillsborough. Although it is a photocopy letter it is one of the more thoughtful that I have seen. I should be grateful if you could arrange for a suitable reply to be sent to it and I should be glad to see a copy.

TEMPORARILY RETAINED G.Gray 30/7/2016

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

(D.C.B. MORRIS)

Miss Catherine Bannister,
Home Office.

TEMPORARILY RETAINED J. Gray 30/7/2016

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

Dear ~~Sir~~ Mrs. Thatcher,

I am a Hillsborough survivor, and a company director – currently in that order. The mental scars of my scrape with death are likely to be with me for a long time, affecting my life, affecting my work – I've worked hard for ten years to achieve my current status, bestowed on me only two months ago. Yet I am also a FOOTBALL SUPPORTER.

I have supported Liverpool F.C. for twenty years, and watched them for the last 15, initially from the Kop, and more latterly from the Main Stand. Like many others, football is a part of my life. I look forward to Saturday; I pine during the close season I enjoy the spectacle, the humour, and feel priveledged to have watche so many great sides, great performances, great entertainment. I also feel priveledged to count amongst my friends many scousers – Liverpudli and Evertonians – who understand and appreciate my own love and knowledge of the game. For I am not a native of Liverpool. Not

even a Lancastrian. I'm a Yorkshireman and very proud of it.

But every home game in the last 15 years, barring a handful for illness, I have travelled the 160 miles round trip to "get my fix."

Psychologists would no doubt, therefore, understand my current feelings. Guilt, that I survived. Loneliness, that despite the comfort of my family, support from work, and long telephone calls to my friends on Merseyside, I have few people to grieve with. People who were there. People who understand what it was like gasping for breath. Being unable to move. Trying to keep calm, and helping those whose screams of fear still echo in my mind.

These were and still are human emotions. I am a human being. 95 others, just like me, died because they shared my hobby, my passion a special part of my life. I count, and they count, and so do the countless thousands of others who feel like I feel, do as I do. Football supporters are the most knowledgable people in the country on the subjects of safety, security, facilities, policing. They know

the good grounds and the bad. The safe and the dangerous. The best policed venues and those where policing is either insufficient or over-officious.

So, for God's sake, listen to what we have to say.

Making Wembley or Anfield, or anywhere else for that matter, into all seater stadia will do no good if other areas are not addressed. Entrance into Wembley has always been a nightmare. You climb some excellent, safe, filed stairs, only to fan out into an horrendous crush at the top, in order to fight your way towards more badly designed barriers just yards from the turnstile. Every year it is chaos, and how people have not been killed before now defies understanding

The same "funnel" effect was evident at Heppings Lane. If half the police on duty up the 1 3/4 miles of the A61 between Cowper Road and the ground had been implemented in constructive ~~gr~~ crowd control at Heppings Lane (a) people might have had some clue as to where the correct turnstiles were — the signs were almost non-existant and we queued for five minutes at the wrong ones before we realised.

(b) fans without tickets could have been kept from swelling the turnstile area – and the number of police down the A61 were only outnumbered by supporters asking for tickets!

(c) there wouldn't have been the need to resort to riding police horses into the crowd – no wonder there was pushing and shoving. Have <u>you</u> ever had a horse tread on your foot? <u>I</u> have – and as well as being painful it is very frightening.

(d) there wouldn't have been the need to open that gate.

We were ushered "round the corner" and were in the ground before we even realised, ticket still in pocket. Once in, no stewards no police suggesting where to go. We looked at our tickets – Entrance B – and headed down the fateful tunnel – the point of no return with hundreds, if not thousands, walking behind us. Time, 2:58 pm.

We knew there was a problem within 30 secs., and spent the next 30 secs. crouched <u>underneath</u> the first crush barrier, unable to go one way or the other. Luckily we were on the left walking through that tunnel and so had carried straight on, and not gone, right, into the

section where the barrier was to fail and so many were to die.

We were lucky.

But I would also like to know why one of my friends was told, by a policeman outside on being asked the time "Don't worry, it's a 3·30 kick off." In fact, the match had started. But he and two others took their time, went to the toilet and then made their way leisurely up into the stand only to find the match in progress and chaos below.

Had the police asked for a delay of the kick off? A concession only Graham Kelly could give, apparently. Could it be that because the players were already on the pitch, that request was ignored?

Or was that policeman merely trying to slow down some of those entering through that gate. If that is the case it should never have been opened without the knowledge of adequate security inside to prevent too many people heading for the same place.

As you enter that gate you can see the light at the end of that tunnel and whether you had a ticket for that section or not you would

automatically be drawn towards it, unless someone stopped you. Alternatively, those who were familiar with the ground would know that the tunnel led out behind the goal, and in an enclosure so small - only some 20 steps - that is by far and away the best vantage point.

But that is history now. The questions must be answered, in detail, and lessons learned. Stopping vehicles as they enter city limits to search for alcohol is <u>not</u> an answer; merely a classic case of locking the stable door after the horse has bolted. How much are they going to drink in 6 miles when they have already travelled 80? Identity cards are not the answer. In most cases excellent segregation within the grounds exists thus limiting trouble to outside, away from the terraces. Those who do get their cards withdrawn will find a way to get in, or will still feel the need to cause trouble outside.

Yes, make grounds safer, but look to resources and comfort <u>outside</u> the ground. Barriers for the queues so fewer police horses need to be involved - their sheer size is frightening and the cause of anger and

[illegible]stration. Where all ticket matches are involved, improve methods of keeping the ticketless away.

I notice that it has taken 95 deaths to prompt the F.A. into increasing the allocation at Wembley for the competing sides. These are the fans who often have followed their team for years, waiting for this moment of glory, and suddenly it is an expensive struggle to get a ticket either from the club - invariably a lottery even for a season ticket holder - or from friends, colleagues, relations or at the last resort, a tout. The allocation should be at least equivalent to the average home gate. These are the lifeblood of football. The people who pay so many wages. The customers. And in every other industry the customer is KING. Look to America - they'll show the way.

Increase, <u>not</u> reduce the size of stadia. Give us those facilities. By Christ we've paid for them over the years.

And may the memory of the 95 remain in the minds of all those who suck our game dry, giving nothing back, and forgetting

3/

But we are human too. We live, we breathe, we see what is going on, we have intelligence greater than cattle or dogs. Treat a man like an animal and he will act like one. Give him respect and you will gain his trust. We know. You know. DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN. Think it through. Think of all the consequences of your actions.

If I fail to do that at work I get my backside kicked, because I am paid to do a job; paid to think. So are policemen so are politicians, so are the officers of local government and footballs 'governing' bodies. You are receiving an overwhelming vote of no confidence on so many topics. Do the right thing. Listen to what we have to say.

In sad memory of the 95

Yours in hope

TEMPORARILY RETAINED J. Gray 30/7/2016
THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

A reply would be appreciated.

150489

LEPPINGS LANE
STANDING
LL1 44 57

LL1 ROW

44 SEAT
58

ENTRANCE B

GANGWAY

6.00 £ 6.00

TO BE GIVEN UP

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL

44 57
LL1

LIVERPOOL
V
NOTTINGHAM FOREST

AT HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM
SATURDAY 15th APRIL 1989 - KICK OFF 3.00 PM

LEPPINGS LANE STANDING

GANGWAY LIVERPOOL AREA ROW:

£ SEAT:

£ 6.00

THIS PORTION TO BE RETAINED

ONE FULL TICKET

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86y/89
SUBJECT CC MASTER

SAPS-LOO-H11

N° 36 OPS.

Sent to Mr Hammond, Private office, for passing to No10. Z 25/4

Should have been addressed to HMQ, submit it?

Mr Nielsen
Mr Gerrwell
Mr de Charrion
I have am sending a Note acknowledging.

The Brazilian Embassy present their compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and request that the following message be conveyed to the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister:

2/ (BW)
1 month for (D)
Z 27/4

"In the name of the Brazilian Government and people, I beg you to accept my sincere condolences for the Hillsborough Stadium disaster. Highest consideration.

José Sarney
President of the Federative
Republic of Brazil"

The Brazilian Embassy avail themselves of the opportunity to renew to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurance of their highest consideration.

London, April 24th, 1989.

LCF/jp

Telegram

24 April 1989

H.E. the British Ambassador,
1 Plutarchou Street,
Kolonaki, Athens.

Please convey to the Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher and the Mayor and Municipal Councillors of Liverpool my deep sympathy and sincere condolences, as well as those of the Nikaia Municipal Council, for the tragic accident at Sheffield which came as a great shock to us.

Stelios Logothetis
Mayor of Nikaia

FILE
cFRO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 April 1989

Dear Mr. Peres.

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mr. Shimon Peres

dg

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T865/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OFF

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 April 1989

Dear Mr. President

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Comrade H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P.

22 APR 1989/1030

ZCZC DLM6270 PLB712 SGF461 016

GXXX CY SGDR 121

DAKARTLX 121/116 21 0900

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86 r/89

10 Downing St
SW1

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

R22/4

ETAT

PRESIDENT REPUBLIQUE SENEGAL

A

SON EXCELLENCE MADAME MARGARET THATCHER

PREMIER MINISTRE DU ROYAUME UNI

DE GRANDE BRETAGNE ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD

LONDRES

GR
President of Senegal on Hillsborough. usual reply please
Z

90.273 MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

LE DRAME SURVENU LE 15 AVRIL DERNIER AU STADE DE SHEFFIELD

ET AU COURS DUQUEL UNE CENTAINE DE VOS COMPATRIOTES ONT TROUVE

LA MORT ET PLUSIEURS AUTRES BLESSES NOUS A AFFLIGE STOP

DEVANT CETTE DURE EPREUVE, LE PEUPLE SENEGALAIS, SON GOUVER-

NEMENT ET MOI-MEME VOUS EXPRIMONS NOS CONDOLEANCES LES PLUS

EMUES ET VOUS ASSURONS DE NOTRE SYMPATHIE AINSI QUE DE NOTRE

SOLIDARITE AMICALE, EN VOUS PRIANT D'ETRE NOTRE INTERPRETE AUPRES

DU PEUPLE BRITANNIQUE ET DE LA FAMILLE DES VICTIMES STOP

HAUTE ET AMICALE CONSIDERATION STOP ET FIN

ABDOU DIOUF

COL ETAT THATCHER 90.273 15 DIOUF

International Telegram
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book
British TELECOM

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 869/89
SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

HIGH COMMISSION FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
28 Queen's Gate, London, SW7 5JA
Phones: 01-584 0081 (4 Lines)
01-589 4842 (3 Lines)
Grams: BANGLADOOT, LONDON, SW7
Telex: 918016

No. Pol-VI/1/89

The High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh presents its compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to reproduce below the text of a message from the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh addressed to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom:

Quote

Her Excellency
The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher,MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
London

Excellency,

I learnt with profound sorrow of the tragic accident at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield causing loss of many valuable lives and grave injuries to so many more. I should like to convey our heartfelt sympathy to the Government and the people of the United Kingdom and deep condolences to the bereaved families over this tragic incident .

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Hussain Muhammad Ershad
President of the People's Republic of
Bangladesh

Unquote

The High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurances of its highest consideration.

HIGH COMMISSION FOR PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH * LONDON *

London
21 April,1989

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86p/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS

cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 April 1989

Dear Mr. President,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Ngwazi Dr. H. Kamuzu Banda, G.C.B.

flè

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T860/89

cc FCO

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 April 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Turgut Ozal

cc

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 April 1989

Dear Mr. President

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86m/89

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 April 1989

Dear General Jaruzelski,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency General Wojciech Jaruzelski

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT cc MASTER

TG
EAM

cc PU

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

21 April 1989

Dear Colin.

HILLSBOROUGH GROUND DISASTER

The Prime Minister held a meeting at No 10 Downing Street at 9.30 am yesterday to discuss the management of the Football Spectators Bill in the light of the Hillsborough Ground disaster. Present were the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whip and the Minister for Sport. Mr A J Langdon (Cabinet Office) was also present.

I should be grateful if recipients of this letter would restrict circulation to those officials with a strict operational need to know.

The Secretary of State for the Environment said that, since the Prime Minister's meeting on 17 April, it had been established that a power could be added to the Football Spectators Bill to allow the requirement of all-seated accommodation as part of the licensing arrangements under the Bill. To enable this addition to be made in the House of Commons, however, a formal Instruction would need to be moved at some point after Second Reading. The Home Secretary commented that he could also issue guidance encouraging all-seated accommodation to the local authorities responsible for the licensing of football grounds. Although this would not have the force of law, he would expect it to have a real effect, although it would take time (and money) before all-seated accommodation became the norm. But even a statutory requirement would take some time to be implemented.

The Home Secretary explained that, while Lord Justice Taylor was responsible for the conduct of his inquiry and could not be given instructions by the Government, it was understood that he intended to produce an interim report on physical measures in June or July. The inquiry's full report would not be available before the end of the year.

The Chief Whip said that there were many Government backbenchers who had never been more than reluctant supporters of the Football Spectators Bill, and who were now seizing on Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry as an excuse to dissociate themselves from it. The Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for the Environment would confirm from the approaches

SLH/EAM

that backbenchers had made to them that the proposition of waiting for Lord Justice Taylor's report now commanded considerable support in the Party, including some notable names, and he could not recommend an early Second Reading of the Bill in the House of Commons. Looking ahead, the obvious problems would be whether Lord Justice Taylor would produce an interim report early enough, and whether it was feasible to complete the Bill in the light of the interim report in the closing weeks of the Session, since it was most unlikely that there would be co-operation from the Opposition.

The following main points were then made in this part of the discussion.

- The rationale of the present target for Royal Assent in July was that this would enable the membership scheme to start operation in the Spring of 1990 (ie towards the end of the 1989-90 football season). If Royal Assent were postponed to the end of the Session in, say, October, the scheme might not be ready even for the start of the 1990-91 season. If the Bill were withdrawn, however, the whole timetable would slip by twelve months.

- The powers in Part 2 of the Bill to enable the imposition of restriction orders on convicted hooligans, so as to require their attendance at reporting centres in this country when major matches were being played abroad, would take some time to achieve their full effect, since they could only be applied to people who were convicted after the Act was brought into force. The proposed restriction orders had general cross-Party support. On the other hand, the National Membership Scheme, to which the Labour Party was opposed, would enable much earlier action to be taken to prevent hooligans from this country attending international matches held abroad. The reason for this was that the tickets for such matches were allocated by the Football Association, which would be able to inform itself about the people excluded from the membership scheme, and ensure that tickets were not issued to them in this country, though some football supporters might evade this screening by obtaining tickets abroad. The commencement of the membership scheme in Spring 1990 would enable these arrangements to be in being for the World Cup matches due to be held in Italy in June 1990, in which there was still a prospect that the English team might participate.

- There was little doubt that opponents of the National Membership Scheme would submit evidence on their views to Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry, claiming that the Hillsborough disaster would have been worse if the scheme had been in operation. There were many good arguments against that, but the inquiry would keep the matter in the public eye and it could not be assumed that Lord Justice Taylor would not comment on the scheme.

- The Bill would, at the very least, need to be taken through its Second Reading in the House of Commons before

the Summer Recess if it were to be enacted in the present Session, and the aim should probably be to complete as much of the Committee Stage as was feasible before the Summer Recess. One possibility might be to take Part 2 of the Bill in Committee before Part 1, since Part 2 was broadly acceptable to the Opposition.

- Since the Bolton disaster in 1946, nearly 300 people had died at football matches involving British clubs in incidents stemming from poor crowd control, hooliganism or both. This record was the worst in the developed world. The character of football had sharply deteriorated in the last two decades. The judgment in the Heysel case was expected to be delivered in the following week and it would no doubt focus attention on hooliganism once again. This might cause the Football Spectators Bill to be seen much more favourably.

The Prime Minister, summing up this part of the discussion, said that making progress with the Football Spectators Bill before the Summer Recess offered the only way of having a vehicle to implement any of Lord Justice Taylor's recommendations in the present Session. Furthermore, there was an overwhelming case for getting the Football Membership Scheme into operation as soon as possible, in view of the record of fatalities at football matches, the 6,000 arrests that took place annually in connection with football matches, and the diversion of police effort that was required to maintain order at them. While a short pause for reflection was indicated, any delay of the order of twelve months in the scheme's operation would be a very serious matter that should certainly not be laid at the Government's door.

The meeting then adjourned and a meeting of the Cabinet followed. When the meeting reconvened after the Cabinet meeting, the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip were not present but the meeting was joined by Sir Clive Whitmore and Mr A H Turney (Home Office) and by Mr D A MacDonald and Mr N Kingham (Department of the Environment).

The main points made in this part of the meeting were as follows.

- If, as appeared to be the case, there was no possibility of getting the Bill enacted before July, then none of the benefits of Part 1 of the Bill could be brought to bear before the World Cup matches in June 1990; though the powers to impose restriction orders would be available from the time the Act was brought into force.

- Although the House Authorities had given their opinion that requiring all-seated accommodation was a topic that was cognate to the Bill, and which could therefore be added to the Bill following an Instruction, it could not be assumed that the Bill's scope was necessarily wide enough to enable other recommendations of Lord Justice Taylor's interim report to be taken on board. That depended on what the recommendations actually were.

- The Secretary of State's Order confirming a membership scheme under the Act was subject to negative resolution procedure. Whatever wider attraction there might be in affirmative resolution procedure, that course was ruled out of court by the fact that the use of affirmative resolution procedure would make the Bill hybrid.

- If the Bill's Second Reading in the House of Commons was to be held over until nearer the Summer Recess, then further thought was needed about the handling of the remaining stages in the Lords.

The Prime Minister, summing up the discussion, said that it would be indefensible for the Government to leave itself without a vehicle to implement any recommendations of Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry in the present Session, and a year's delay in the implementation of the Football Membership Scheme would also be quite unacceptable. For both these reasons there was a clear need to proceed with the Bill in the present Session, though the target of Royal Assent in July was no longer attainable and the Bill would need to be enacted later in the Session. Those who sought to delay the Bill's enactment had no alternative to suggest, and to abstain from taking action on football safety and hooliganism would be the gravest possible matter, now that the need for this action had been so conclusively demonstrated. Far from being a measure that pre-empted Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry, the Bill was an enabling framework that provided the only route for taking early action on the inquiry's interim recommendations. It should also be possible to take account of the final recommendations in the design of the subsequent scheme. The Government should vigorously confront Parliamentary and public opinion with these arguments during the period for reflection that was now called for. It should also be brought out that the Bill represented the only way available of controlling the behaviour of English football supporters abroad and that its enactment had been linked with the return of English clubs to European football. The kernel of the Government's position was that it was doing everything possible to implement Mr Justice Popplewell's recommendations and to prepare the way for implementing those that might now be made by Lord Justice Taylor. The Government's critics were, in effect, saying that they would respect whatever recommendations Lord Justice Taylor might make though they rejected those of the last Judge to consider football questions. That was an absurd position.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to other Ministers present at the meeting, to Sir Clive Whitmore, and to Anthony Langdon and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Turnbull

ANDREW TURNBULL

Colin Walters, Esq.,

RLé

CC FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 April 1989

Dear Monsieur Mauroy,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Monsieur Pierre Mauroy

KK

cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 April 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Kesdi Merbah

RLe

DAS

cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 April 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much for your kind message of condolences following the tragedy at Hillsborough football ground on 15 April. I shall pass on your sympathy to the families of the victims and I am sure that they will take comfort from them.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Mieczyslaw Rakowski

cc

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 April 1989

HILLSBOROUGH

I enclose a further batch of replies to messages of condolence and would be grateful if they could be despatched as soon as possible.

(CHARLES POWELL)

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

K02171

MR TURNBULL

HILLSBOROUGH GROUND DISASTER

I attach the draft of a letter recording yesterday's meetings, for you to send to Philip Mawer.

A/L

A J LANGDON

21 April 1989

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT LETTER TO PS/HOME SECRETARY Chris Walters

HILLSBOROUGH GROUND DISASTER

The Prime Minister held a meeting at No 10 Downing Street at 9.30 am yesterday to discuss the management of the Football Spectators Bill in the light of the Hillsborough Ground disaster. Present were the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whip and the Minister for Sport. Mr A J Langdon (Cabinet Office) was also present.

I should be grateful if recipients of this letter would restrict circulation to those officials with a strict operational need to know.

The Secretary of State for the Environment said that, since the Prime Minister's meeting on 17 April, it had been established that a power could be added to the Football Spectators Bill to allow the requirement of all-seated accommodation as part of the licensing arrangements under the Bill. To enable this addition to be made in the House of Commons, however, a formal Instruction would need to be moved at some point after Second Reading. The Home Secretary commented that he could also issue guidance encouraging all-seated accommodation to the local authorities responsible for the licensing of football grounds. Although this would not have the force of law, he would expect it to have a real effect,

although it would take time (and money) before all-seated accommodation became the norm. But even a statutory requirement would take some time to be implemented.

The Home Secretary explained that, while Lord Justice Taylor was responsible for the conduct of his inquiry and could not be given instructions by the Government, it was understood that he intended to produce an interim report on physical measures in June or July. The inquiry's full report would not be available before the end of the year.

The Chief Whip said that there were many Government backbenchers who had never been more than reluctant supporters of the Football Spectators Bill, and who were now seizing on Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry as an excuse to dissociate themselves from it. The Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for the Environment would confirm from the approaches that backbenchers had made to them that the proposition of waiting for Lord Justice Taylor's report now commanded considerable support in the Party, including some notable names, and he could not recommend an early Second Reading of the Bill in the House of Commons. Looking ahead, the obvious problems would be ~~with~~ whether Lord Justice Taylor's would timely production ~~of~~ an interim report, ~~and on the~~ feasibility ~~of~~ completing the Bill in the light of the interim report in the closing weeks of the session, since it was most unlikely that there would be co-operation from the Opposition. ~~If, in all the circumstances, withdrawal of the Bill should be envisaged, then~~

the most satisfactory explanation would be that a comprehensive Bill taking full account of Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry was now in view for the next session.

The following main points were then made in this part of the discussion.

- The rationale of the present target for Royal Assent in July was that this would enable the membership scheme to start operation in the Spring of 1990 (ie towards the end of the 1989-90 football season). If Royal Assent were postponed to the end of the session in, say, October, then the start of the scheme would might not be ready, even for the start of the 1990-91 season. If the Bill were ultimately lost, however, clearly need to be deferred and there was even a risk be under timetable would slip by further months. that the scheme might not be in full operation before the 1991-92 football season.

- The powers in Part 2 of the Bill to enable the imposition of restriction orders on convicted hooligans, so as to require their attendance at reporting centres in this country when major matches were being played abroad, would take some time to achieve their full effect, since they could only be applied to people who were convicted after the Act was brought into force. The proposed restriction orders had general cross-Party support. On the other hand, the National Membership Scheme, to which the Labour

Party was opposed, would enable much earlier action to be taken to prevent hooligans from this country attending international matches held abroad. The reason for this was that the tickets for such matches were allocated by the Football Association, which would be able to inform itself about the people excluded from the membership scheme, and ensure that tickets were not issued to them in this country, though some football supporters might evade this screening by obtaining tickets abroad. The commencement of the membership scheme in Spring 1990 would enable these arrangements to be in being for the World Cup matches due to be held in Italy in June 1990, in which there was still a prospect that the English team might participate.

- There was little doubt that opponents of the National Membership Scheme would submit evidence on their views to Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry, claiming that the Hillsborough disaster would have been worse if the scheme had been in operation. There were many good arguments against that, but the inquiry would keep the matter in the public eye and it could not be assumed that Lord Justice Taylor would not comment on the scheme.

- The Bill would, at the very least, need to be taken through its Second Reading in the House of Commons

before the Summer Recess if it were to be enacted in the present session, and the aim should probably be to complete as much of the Committee Stage as was feasible before the Summer Recess. One possibility might be to take Part 2 of the Bill in Committee before Part 1, since Part 2 was broadly acceptable to the Opposition.

- Since the Bolton disaster in 1946, nearly 300 people had died in incidents at football matches, ~~if the Heysel disaster was included in the count.~~ Although ~~few of these deaths were directly caused by hooliganism at incidents other than that at Heysel~~, this ~~overall~~ record was the worst in the developed world. The character of football had sharply deteriorated in the last two decades. The judgement in the Heysel case was expected to be delivered in the following week and it would no doubt focus attention on hooliganism once again. This might cause the Football Spectators Bill to be seen much more favourably.

The Prime Minister, summing up this part of the discussion, said that making progress with the Football Spectators Bill before the Summer Recess offered the only way of having a vehicle to implement any of Lord Justice Taylor's recommendations in the present session. Furthermore, there was an overwhelming case for getting the Football Membership Scheme into operation as soon as possible, in view of the record of fatalities at football

matches, the 6,000 arrests that took place annually in connection with football matches, and the diversion of police effort that was required to maintain order at them. While a short pause for reflection was indicated, any delay of the order of 12 months in the scheme's operation would be a very serious matter that should certainly not be laid at the Government's door.

The meeting then adjourned and a meeting of the Cabinet followed. When the meeting reconvened after the Cabinet meeting the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip were not present but the meeting was joined by Sir Clive Whitmore and Mr A H Turney (Home Office) and by Mr D A MacDonald and Mr N Kingham (Department of the Environment).

The main points made in this part of the meeting were as follows.

- If the Football Spectators Bill achieved Royal Assent at the end of the present session, assuming a spillover, then the membership scheme might still be implemented, technology permitting, at the beginning of the 1990-91 football season, in August 1990. Delaying Royal Assent from July to the spillover would not, therefore, postpone the implementation of the scheme by 12 months, though postponement of the Bill to the following session would certainly have that effect.

- If, as appeared to be the case, there was no possibility of getting the Bill enacted before July, then none of the ~~new arrangements~~ provisions of Part I of the Bill could be brought to bear before the World Cup matches in June 1990, those the power to impose restriction orders would be available from the time the Act was brought into force

- Although the House Authorities had given their opinion that requiring all-seated accommodation was a topic that was cognate to the Bill, and which could therefore be added to the Bill following an Instruction, it could not be assumed that the Bill's scope was necessarily wide enough to enable other recommendations of Lord Justice Taylor's interim report to be taken on board. That depended on what the recommendations actually were.

- The Secretary of State's Order confirming a membership scheme under the Act was subject to negative resolution procedure. Whatever wider attraction there might be in affirmative resolution procedure, that course was ruled out of court by the fact that the use of affirmative resolution procedure would make the Bill hybrid.

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saying that they would respect whatever recommendations Lord Justice Taylor might make though they rejected those of the last judge to consider football questions. That was an absurd position.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to other Ministers present at the meeting, to Sir Clive Whitmore, and to Anthony Langdon and Sir Robin Butler.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 April 1989

I attach a telegram from Muhran Machawaliani Leva Haindrava, written on behalf of Georgian writers, about the Hillsborough tragedy.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for a reply to be sent to this telegram on the Prime Minister's behalf.

(CHARLES POWELL)

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RETYPE PSE

21 APR 1989/1757

ZCZC DLM6784 SRL515 01/621 8/12801

GBXX CO SUTB 038

TBILISI 38/36 21 1415

R 22/4

GR
Pl. ask FCO
to reply
OR

MRS MARGARET THATCHER

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON UKSW1

WE ARE DEEPLY SCHOCKED BY SHEFFIELD TRAGEDY PLEASE ACCEPT OUR CONDOLENCES CONVEY OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES OF VICTIMS ON BEHALF OF GOORGIAN WRITERS

MUHRAN MACHAWALIANI LEVA HAINDRAVA

International Telegram
British TELECOM
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

Prime Minister

(i) I have borrowed the Nicholas Ridley watercolour to get copies made. It will be back in the flat on Monday or Tuesday.

(ii) The main memorial service for Hillsborough is in Liverpool on Saturday 29 April. The Queen will be represented by the Lord Lieutenant but the Duke of Kent (as President of the Football Assoc) and the Duchess will also attend.

There is a smaller service in Sheffield on Sunday. Again a Lord Lieutenant will attend. The Government will be represented by Lord Ferrers.

AT

21/4

OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification	Caveat	Precedence
	RESTRICTED		PRIORITY

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
TC	2	RESTRICTED
CAVEAT	3	
FM	4	FM FCO
TO	5	TO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK
TELNO	6	TELNO
OF	7	OF 201200Z APRIL 89
AND TO	8	INFO PRIORITY BISBA
	9	INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON
	10	
	11	YOUR TELNO 506: MESSAGE FROM DR CAPUTO
	12	
	13	1. Please deliver the following reply through the same channel.
	14	There will be no signed original.
	15	
	16	Text begins
	17	His Excellency Dr Dante Caputo
	18	President of the Forty-Third Session of the
	19	General Assembly of the United Nations
	20	
	21	Thank you for your message of condolence over the disaster at
	22	the Hillsborough Football Stadium. What should have been a
	23	happy day out for many families turned into a day of tragedy. I
	24	shall ensure that your kind words are passed to the bereaved and
	25	injured.
///	26	
//	27	
/	28	MARGARET THATCHER
	29	Text ends

YYYY

MAIN

ADDITIONAL

NNNN

		Catchword:	
File number P01	Dept FID	Drafted by (Block capitals) D E TATHAM	Telephone no 270 2743
Authorised for despatch by:	Initials	Date/time	
For COD use only	Comcen reference	Telegram number	Processed by

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification	Caveat	Precedence
	RESTRICTED		PRIORITY

<<<<

2. If asked we shall release the text of this exchange.

HOWE

YYYY
LIMITED
FID
CRD
NAD
UND
NEWS DEPT
CONSULAR
PS
PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS
CHIEF CLERK
MISS PESTELL
MR FEARN

ADDITIONAL
MR MOYNIHAN, DOE
MR WALTERS, F4 HOME OFFICE

NNNN

For distribution order see Page Catchword:

Printed in the UK for HMSO 11/88 DdFCO0296 C500 27081

YFB7/Cϕ37C

cc FCO

CCIC

FCO have copy.

AMBASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
DU CAMEROUN
Paix – Travail – Patrie

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland

84 Holland Park,
LONDON, W11 3SB
01-727 0771

Please send to
Neal Hammond,
Private Office

GR
Usual reply please

No 246 /ECL/DC1/89

cc Mr Wake
CRD

24/4

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon presents its compliments to the Vice Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to communicate the following telex message from President Paul Biya to Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, along with an unofficial translation for transmission to its high destination:

"MADAME MARGARET THATCHER
PREMIER MINISTRE DU ROYAUME UNI DE GRANDE
BRETAGNE ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
LONDRES

MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

J'AI APPRIS AVEC BEAUCOUP DE REGRET LE DRAME QUI A RECEMMENT CAUSE DE TRES NOMBREUSES VICTIMES AU STADE DE SHEFFIELD.

A CETTE OCCASION, JE VOUS PRIE D'ACCEPTER ET DE TRANSMETTRE AU PEUPLE BRITANIQUE, LES CONDOLEANCES ATTRISTEES DU PEUPLE CAMEROUNAIS AUXQUELLES J'ASSOCIE L'EXPRESSION DE MA PROFONDE COMPASSION.

VEUILLEZ AGREER, MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE, LES ASSURANCES DE MA TRES HAUTE CONSIDERATION./-

PAUL BIYA

PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN"

.../2.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T806/89

Unofficial Translation

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

Dear Madam Prime Minister,

I learnt, with much sorrow, of the tragedy which recently caused many deaths in Sheffield Stadium.

On this occasion, I pray you accept, and transmit to the British people, the condolences of the people of Cameroon, as well as my profound compassion.

Kindly accept, Madam Prime Minister, the assurances of my very high estime.

Paul Biya

President of the Republic of Cameroon

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Vice Marshal of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurances of its highest consideration.

EMBASSY of the REPUBLIC of CAMEROON
Ambassade de la République du Cameroun
LONDON
Londres

LONDON, 20 April 1989.

The Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T864/89

RESTRICTED

17365D
MDLOAN 6645

RESTRICTED
FM FCO
TO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK
TELNO 237
OF 201200Z APRIL 89
INFO PRIORITY BIS BUENOS AIRES
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON

YOUR TELNO 506: MESSAGE FROM DR CAPUTO

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING REPLY THROUGH THE SAME CHANNEL. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.

TEXT BEGINS
HIS EXCELLENCY DR DANTE CAPUTO
PRESIDENT OF THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE OVER THE DISASTER AT THE HILLSBOROUGH FOOTBALL STADIUM. WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A HAPPY DAY OUT FOR MANY FAMILIES TURNED INTO A DAY OF TRAGEDY. I SHALL ENSURE THAT YOUR KIND WORDS ARE PASSED TO THE BEREAVED AND INJURED.

MARGARET THATCHER
TEXT ENDS

2. IF ASKED WE SHALL RELEASE THE TEXT OF THIS EXCHANGE.

HOWE

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION 64

MAIN 62

LIMITED
FID
CRD

PS
PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/MR EGGAR

1736
MDLOAN 6645

NAD
UND
LEGAL ADVISERS
NEWS D
CONSULAR D

PS/PUS
CHIEF CLERK
MISS PESTELL
MR FEARN

ADDITIONAL 2

MR MOYNIHAN, DOE

MR WALTERS, F4 HOME OFFICE

NNNN

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86K/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER OFS.

afs.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 April 1989

Your Highness,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Highness Shaikh Sa'ad Al Abdullah Al Salim Al Sabah, KCMG.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86j/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 April 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Professor Anibal Cavaco Silva

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. .....

ACP

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 April 1989

Dear Chief Minister,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Hon. H. L. Stoutt

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. .....

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 April 1989

Dear Chief Minister,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Hon. Joseph Bossano

6

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86i/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 April 1989

Dear Mr President,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T261/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

AFO

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 April 1989

Dear Eugenia.

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Hon. Miss M. Eugenia Charles, M.P.

6

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86h/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 April 1989

Dear Mr. President,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Major-General Dr. Joseph S. Momoh,
O.R., O.B.E., D.C.L.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T869/89

cc PC
& FCO

TANZANIA HIGH COMMISSION

SUBJECT cc MASTER ORS -

Telephone: 01-499 8951
Telegrams: TANZANREP LONDON

43, Hertford Street,
London, W1Y 8DB

All OFFICIAL communications must be addressed to His Excellency, The High Commissioner, and NOT to individuals.

In reply please quote our Ref. No. TZL/D.30/112

20th April, 1989

Mr. C.D. Powell
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London, SWI

GR
Usual reply please
ar

I have been asked by my President, H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi to transmit to you the following message of sympathy on the sad Hillsborough tragedy in which many football fans died. I shall be most grateful if you can help transmit it to her.

"THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER
PRIME MINISTER 10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON

DEAR PRIME MINISTER

I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY GRIEVED BY THE NEWS OF THE TRAGEDY IN WHICH SO MANY PEOPLE, MOSTLY FOOTBAIL FANS, LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE FA CUP SEMI-FINAL GAME IN SHEFFIELD LAST SATURDAY.

THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA JOIN ME IN SENDING SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO YOU PERSONALLY, YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE BRITISH PEOPLE FOR THIS CALAMITY. OUR SPECIAL SYMPATHIES GO TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES AND WE ALSO PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY FOR THE SPEEDY RECOVERY OF ALL THOSE WHO WERE INJURED.

YOURS SINCERELY

ALI HASSAN MWINYI
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA"

U. Mwambulukutu
for: HIGH COMMISSIONER

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 April 1989

Dear High Commissioner,

Thank you for your kind message of sympathy, on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps, following the terrible tragedy at Hillsborough Football Ground. I am sure that your kind words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Tasos Panayides

R21

Canadian High Commission

Haut Commissariat du Canada

The Hon Donald S. Macdonald, P.C.
High Commissioner for Canada

LONDON, April 20, 1989

GR

R21 used reply phone

Dear Prime Minister,

Please find attached a message of condolence which was received this morning from Prime Minister Mulroney.

May I take this opportunity to extend to the communities involved and the government my own personal sympathy.

Yours sincerely,

Donald S. Macdonald

Donald S. Macdonald

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON, SW1A 2AA

CCPC

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 April 1989

Dear Charles

Hillsborough: Message from Nicaraguan President

President Ortega has sent the Prime Minister a letter of condolence on the Hillsborough disaster. A translation / is enclosed. The message is no doubt at least partly an attempt to sweeten the atmosphere before Ortega's call on the Prime Minister on 8 May.

/ I enclose a draft acknowledgement in the form of a telegram to Managua.

Yours ever

Bob Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

TRANSLATION OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ORTEGA

Esteemed Prime Minister

With deep distress we received the news of the tragic events which occurred in the Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield during the recent football match between Liverpool and Nottingham.

Please accept, in the name of the people and government of Nicaragua as well as my own, our sincere condolences for the irreparable human losses, and convey our feelings of grief to the families of the victims and to the British people.

Sincerely

Daniel Ortega Saavedra

LC3ABQ

UNCLASSIFIED IMMEDIATE

ZCZC
UNCLASSIFIED

FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE MANAGUA
TELNO

INFO PRIORITY SAN JOSE

YOUR TELNO 94: ORTEGA'S LETTER
Please convey the following message from the Prime Minister. Quote I was very grateful for your kind message of condolence on the Hillsborough disaster. It was [illegible] an appalling tragedy. Your sympathy is much appreciated Unquote.

HOWE

NNNN

MCAD A L S COLTMAN 2469

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 April 1989

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ORTEGA

Thank you for your letter of 20 April proposing that the Prime Minister should reply to President Ortega's message of condolence. I agree that this would be right and the text enclosed with your letter may be despatched.

Charles Powell

Bob Peirce Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 April 1989

HILLSBOROUGH

I enclose a further batch of replies to messages of condolence. I should be grateful if you would arrange for their onward transmission.

Charles Powell

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

cc FCO.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 April 1989

The Prime Minister was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

(CHARLES POWELL)

His Excellency Dr. Erwin Blandon

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

20 April 1989

MS

MERSEYSIDE POLICE VIEWS ON HILLSBOROUGH

Yesterday I paid a long-planned visit to the Merseyside Police in Liverpool. Inevitably we discussed last Saturday's events at Hillsborough.

The Chief Constable and his senior colleagues were careful in their comments. Lord Justice Taylor is visiting them on Friday.

It was, however, clear that they had a good deal of sympathy with colleagues in the South Yorkshire Police who had had to take decisions on Saturday. One officer, who had been present at the match, said how normal it all seemed - although the level of policing (800) was unusally high. Nothing would have suggested to him that trouble was brewing until it happened.

The Chief Constable told me that he deplored the Press's morbid concentration on pictures of bodies. He was also uneasy about the way in which Anfield was being turned into a shrine. A key factor in causing the disaster was the fact that large numbers of Liverpool fans had turned up without tickets. This was getting lost sight of in attempts to blame the police, the football authorities, etc.

Senior officers in Merseyside do not support the line being taken by their local Police Federation. One officer, born and bred in Liverpool, said that he was deeply ashamed to say that it was drunken Liverpool fans who had caused this disaster, just as they had caused the deaths at Heysel. He thought that Jacques Georges, the French President of UEFA, had spoken the truth at the weekend.

CAROLYN SINCLAIR

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

ccPE.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 April 1989

Dear Charles

Hillsborough: Message from Dr Dante Caputo

I enclose a message to the Prime Minister from Dr Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister but here acting in his capacity as President of the UN General Assembly, over the Hillsborough football disaster.

We recommend that the Prime Minister should acknowledge Dr Caputo's message of condolence, as she did with President Alfonsin's message after Lockerbie.

I enclose a draft telegram to New York, with a suggested text for the Prime Minister's reply.

I am copying this letter to Kate Bush (Department of the Environment).

Yours ever

Bob Bowen

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

SL

V6

CVPC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 April 1989

HILLSBOROUGH: MESSAGE FROM DR. CAPUTO

Thank you for your letter of 20 April advising that the Prime Minister should acknowledge Dr. Caputo's message of condolence following the Hillsborough tragedy. I think that the Prime Minister would follow this advice and the draft enclosed with your letter may be despatched.

Charles Powell

Bob Peirce Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RESTRICTED

SUBJECT cc MASTER ORS.

EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA
GRAN BRETAÑA

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T86/89

Managua 19 de Abril de 1989

Estimada Primer Ministro,

Con profunda consternación hemos recibido la noticia de los trágicos sucesos acaecidos en el estadio Hillborough de Sheffield, durante la reciente celebración del partido de futbol entre Liverpool y Nottingham.

Ruégole aceptar, en nombre del pueblo y Gobierno de Nicaragua y el mio propio, nuestras sinceras condolencias para las irreparables pérdidas humanas y transmitir nuestros sentimientos de pesar a los familiares de las víctimas y al pueblo británico.

Atentamente,

(firmado) Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Excelentisima Señora
Margaret Thatcher,
Primer Ministro,
Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e
Irlanda del Norte.

cc FCO
PC

EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA
GRAN BRETAÑA

CDN 19/4.

London, 19th April, 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

I have the honour to convey a message of condolence from H.E. President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua on the sad occasion of the tragedy at Hillborough Stadium, Sheffield.

The original letter was handed over to H.M.G.'s Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua, on the 18th April, 1989.

Yours Faithfully,

Francisco d'Escoto

Francisco d'Escoto
Ambassador

The Right Honourable
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher FRS, MP,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON S.W. 1

PRIME MINISTER'S UNCLASSIFIED

170617
MDHIAN 1342

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T86e/89

Copy to No. 10. RLP 20/4

UNCLASSIFIED
FM GEORGETOWN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 92
OF 191510Z APRIL 89

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS. CR

Usual reply please

HILLSBOROUGH TRAGEDY

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT HOYTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED VIA MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TODAY:-

BEGINS

''EXCELLENCY,

IT WAS WITH PROFOUND SHOCK THAT I LEARNT OF THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT AT HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM IN SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND, WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF MORE THAN NINETY (90) PERSONS AND SEVERE INJURIES TO SEVERAL OTHERS.

I WISH ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF GUYANA, AS WELL AS IN MY OWN NAME, TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP SYMPATHY AND REQUEST THAT YOU BE GOOD ENOUGH TO CONVEY OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE RELATIVES OF THE DECEASED.

PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

HUGH DESMOND HOYTE
PRESIDENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA''.

ENDS

SMALL

YYYY

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86d189

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 April 1989

T

Dear Prime Minister,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Monsieur Jacques Santer

930-4433

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1224/18

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THE RT. HONOURABLE MRS MARGARET THATCHER, M.P.

PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN

LONDON

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. T86C/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER

DISASTERS: OPS Hillsborough April 89

I HAVE LEARNT WITH DEEP SORROW THE TRAGIC DEATH OF THE 94 FOOTBALL FANS WHO DIED IN BRITAIN'S SPORTING DISASTER ON SATURDAY 15TH APRIL, 1989.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI SOLEMNLY

COL ETAT 94 15TH 1989

PG280 TLX44113 P2/39

JOIN ME IN CONVEYING TO YOU, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN, MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES.

PLEASE CONVEY MY SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVED FAMILY.

H KAMUZU BANDA

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

COL NIL

International Telegram
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book
British TELECOM

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. .....

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 April 1989

Dear Mr. President,

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Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. F. Houphouet-Boigny, G.C.M.G.

6

cc PC
✓ FCO

R20/4

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UNCLASSIFIED
OO FCOLN
FM GEORG TO FCOLN
191510Z APR
GRS 152

UNCLASSIFIED
FM GEORGETOWN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 92
OF 191510Z APRIL 89

HILLSBOROUGH TRAGEDY

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT HOYTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED VIA MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TODAY:-

BEGINS

''EXCELLENCY.

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PLEASE ACCEPT. EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

HUGH DESMOND HOYTE
PRESIDENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA''.

ENDS

SMALL

YYYY
ADVANCE 2
HD/CRD 1
RESIDENT CLERK 1
MAIN 40
LIMITED 6
CRD 2
WIAD 5
NEWS 9
CONSULAR 6
PS 7

PS/MR EGGAR 1
PS/PUS 1
CHIEF CLERK 1
MISS PESTELL 1
MR FEARN 1
ADDITIONAL 2
MR MOYNIHAN DOE 1
MR WALTERS F4. HOME OFFICE 1
[DDENYER]
GDLNAN 0089

NOTE FOR THE FILE

The letter to Mr Babcar Ndiaye was sent to the following address:

African Development Bank Group
101 Moorgate
London EC2.

Monica.

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 April 1989

Dear Mr. Ndiaye.

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mr. Babacar Ndiaye

[redacted] 1989/1245

[redacted] DLM3608 BKL604 TVA724 CT046031

GBXX BY KTKU 059

KUWAIT 59/57 19 2600

R19/4

GR

STATE PRIORITY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARGARET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

10 DOWNING STREET, LONDON

I WAS DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIVES AT HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM IN SHEFFIELD. I EXPRESS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES AND SINCERE SYMPATHY TO YOU AND TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS.

SAAD ALABDULLAH ALSALIM ALSABAH

CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

COL 10

British TELECOM International Telegram
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

R 1989/1245

DLM3608 BKL604 TVA724 CT046031

GBXX BY KTKU 059

KUWAIT 59/57 19 2600

R19/4

GR

STATE PRIORITY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARGARET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

10 DOWNING STREET, LONDON

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SAAD ALABDULLAH ALSALIM ALSABAH

CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

COL 10

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 April 1989

HILLSBOROUGH

Thank you for your letter of 18 April about the message of condolence from the Tunisian Prime Minister. I am content with the proposed acknowledgement and agree that it should be despatched.

C. D. POWELL

R. N. Peirce, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

KK

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 April 1989

Dear M. Ndiaye.

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mr. Babacar Ndiaye

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 April 1989

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the Hillsborough football ground. We shall pass on your condolences to the families of the victims and I am sure they will draw comfort from your words of sympathy.

C. D. POWELL

His Excellency Mr. Feesago S. Fepulea'i

Dame CAPUTO
26/4

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 April 1989

HILLSBOROUGH

I enclose a copy of a message of condolence from the Argentine Foreign Minister for the Hillsborough tragedy, sent in his capacity as President of the United Nations General Assembly. I should be grateful for advice on whether it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to reply.

(CHARLES POWELL)

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

cc/c

Portuguese Embassy,
11, Belgrave Square,
London, SW1X 8PP

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83bXXXiii/89

Proc. 14,62
No. 27

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

18th April, 1989

CR
Usual - reply please
cc

Dear Charles

I would be most grateful if you would be kind enough to convey to The Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP, the following message from the Portuguese Prime Minister, Professor Aníbal Cavaco Silva.

> "Deeply affected by the tragedy occurred in Sheffield, I would like to express to Your Excellency, on behalf of my Government and on my own, deepest condolences which I would ask you to convey to the families concerned.
>
> Aníbal A. Cavaco Silva
> Prime Minister of Portugal"

Yours

M. Côrte Real

(Manuel Côrte Real)
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Charles D. Powell, Esq.,
Private Secretary
(Overseas Affairs) to
The Prime Minister,
Prime Minister's Office,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1A 2AA

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO T836/XXXII/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER

THE PRIME MINISTER

ORS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

18 April 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

Her Excellency Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T836/XXXI/89

SUBJECT & MASTER
ORS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Right Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth, KCMG, QC, MLA.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T88b XXX/89

STS 282/89

ECUADOREAN EMBASSY
IN BRITAIN

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

4.2.18/89

London, 18 April 1989

Dear Secretary of State,

On the instruction of the Government of Ecuador I have the honour to ask you to forward the following message to its addressee:

Mrs Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
London.

I should like to express my deepest sympathy over the terrible disaster at the stadium in Sheffield which has cast the United Kingdom into mourning. I should like you to send this expression of sorrow to the families of the victims and to reaffirm the feelings of sympathy which I extend to them on behalf of the Ecuadorean Government and people.

[Complimentary close]
Rodrigo Borja,
President of the Republic of Ecuador.

[Complimentary close]
(signed)
José Antonio Correa,
Ambassador.

Sir Geoffrey Howe,
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
London.

EMBAJADA DEL ECUADOR
EN GRAN BRETAÑA

4-2-18/89

Londres, 18 de abril de 1.989

Señor Secretario de Estado:

Por instrucción del Gobierno del Ecuador tengo el honor de solicitar a Vuestra Excelencia hacer llegar el siguiente mensaje a su destinataria:

Excelentísima Señora
Margaret Thatcher,
Primer Ministro del Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte,
Londres.-

Manifiéstole mi más sentida condolencia por lamentable desastre acaecido en estadio de Sheffield que ha enlutado al Reino Unido. Ruégole hacer llegar esta expresión de pesar a las familias de las víctimas y reiterarles los sentimientos de solidaridad que hago extensivo en nombre del Gobierno y pueblo ecuatorianos.

Reitérole el testimonio de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

Rodrigo Borja,
Presidente de la República del Ecuador.

Renuevo a Vuestra Excelencia las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

José Antonio Correa,
Embajador.

Su Excelencia Sir Geoffrey Howe,
Secretario de Estado para Asuntos Exteriores,
Londres.-

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO T836XXIX/89.

SUBJECT ce OPS
MASTER

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Your Highness,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

His Highness Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, GCB, GCMG.

1

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. T836xxvii/89.

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

SUBJECT cc MASTER OFS

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear Kenneth.

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours very

Margaret

His Excellency Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. T93/XXVI/89

SUBJECT cc OPS
MASTER

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear Mr President,

I was most grateful to received your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mr. Ante Markovic

PI : MINIST
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83bXXV/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear Mr President,

I was most grateful to received your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Hon. P.W. Botha, DMS.

PRIME MINISTER

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL NO. T836xxiv/89

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

SUBJECT cc MASTER

THE PRIME MINISTER

OPS.

18 April 1989

Dear Mr. President,

I was most grateful to received your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr George Vassiliou

PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO T83bxxii/89

SUBJECT c MASTER OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Your Majesty,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 88 bxxii/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear Bob.

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours ever

Margaret

The Honourable R. Hawke, AC, MP.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83b XX1/89

SUBJECT & MASTER
OPS -

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear General Secretary,

I was most grateful for your kind message following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield last Saturday. Your words of sympathy will be much appreciated by the British people and will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83/XX/89

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

SUBJECT cc MASTER

THE PRIME MINISTER OPS

18 April 1989

Dear Helmut

Thank you for your message of sympathy following the disaster at the football match in Sheffield. It was indeed a terrible misfortune, with so many dead and injured and most of the victims young people. Your kind words will help bring some comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours ever

Margaret

His Excellency Dr. Helmut Kohl

MRS. MARGARETH THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER

LONDON/UNITED-KINGDOM

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL NO T836xix/89

SUBJECT & MASTER ORS

N/REF/MM7294/KJ

FOLLOWING THE SHEFFIELD STADIUM DISATER CAUSING MANY DEATHS AND INJURIES TO HUNDREDS THUS PLUNGING MANY A FAMILY IN GRIEF AND MOURNING I WOULD LIKE ON BEHALF OF THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP AND ON MY OWN BEHALF TO

COL LONDON/UNITED-KINGDOM N/REF/MM7294/KJ

902 G PAGE 02/19

REQUEST YOU MADAM TO ACCEPT OUR MOST SINCERE CONDOLENCES AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY.

HIGHEST CONSIDERATION

BABACAR NDIAYE

PRESIDENT TLX23717 AFDEV-CI

COL TLX23717 AFDEV-CI

International Telegram
British TELECOM
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83bxviii/89

PS/No 10 Downing St

FCO 18/4/89

NO 51/4

THE RT HON MARGARET THATCHER
PRIME MINISTER
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

NEWS OF THE TRAGEDY AT THE FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN LIVERPOOL AND NOTTINGHAM FOREST AT SHIEFIELD LAST SATURDAY WHICH OVER 90 FOOTBALL FANS LOST THEIR LIVES WAS RECEIVED HERE WITH GREAT SHOCK AND SORROW STOP

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE , I CONVEY TO YOU AND THE BEREAVED FAMILIES MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCE STOP

MAJOR-GENERAL DR JOSEPH SAIDU MOMOH
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

297711 PRDRME G

18 APR 1989/0810

ZCZC DLM1806 ZGX2399 L29167820316

GBXX CO LULU 084

LUXEMBOURG-TELEX 20816 84/78 18 0842

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83bXVii/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

MADAME MARGARET THATCHER

PREMIER MINISTRE DU

ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE

ET D IRLANDE DU NORD

10, DOWNING STREET

LONDRES

MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

PROFONDEMENT TOUCHE PAR LES TRAGIQUES EVENEMENT DE SHEFFIELD QUI ONT SI CRUELLEMENT MARQUE LA VIE QUOTIDIENNE DE VOTRE PAYS ET FRAPPE DE DEUIL LE ROYAUME-UNI, JE TIENS A VOUS EXPRIMER MA PENSEE EMUE.

JE ME FAIS L INTERPRETE DE MON GOUVERNEMENT AINSI QUE DU PEUPLE LUXEMBOURGEOIS POUR TRANSMETTRE LEURS TRES SINCERES SENTIMENTS DE CONDOLEANCE AUX FAMILLES DES VICTIMES ET AU PEUPLE BRITANNIQUE.

JACQUES SANTER

PRESIDENT DU GOUVERNMENT,

MINISTRE D ETAT

British TELECOM International Telegram For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83bxvi/89

(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS

Like millions of my countrymen I am deeply moved by the tragedy which occurred at the Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield.

Please accept, Mrs. Prime Minister, my sincere condolences for the victims of this tragic event and their families.

Wojciech Jaruzelski
Chairman of the Council of State
of the Polish People's Republic

PRIME MINISTER'S

OUT TELEGRAM

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T83bXV/89

	Classification	Caveat	Precedence
	CONFIDENTIAL		IMMEDIATE

ZCZC 1 ZCZC SUBJECT cc MASTER ops

TC 2 CONFIDENTIAL

CAVEAT 3

FM 4 FM FCO

TO 5 TO IMMEDIATE TUNIS

TELNO 6 TELNO

OF 7 OF 180915Z APRIL 89

AND TO 8

9

10 HILLSBOROUGH TRAGEDY: MESSAGE FROM TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER

11 1. The Tunisian Ambassador has written (17 April) to
12 the Prime Minister conveying the following message from
13 Mr Baccouche, the Tunisian Prime Minister (non official
14 translation):

15 Begins

16 The news of the tragic events of the weekend in Sheffield
17 deeply grieved us. Please accept in these sombre circumstances
18 the expression of our sincere condolences and of our deepest
19 sympathy.

20 Ends

21 2. The Prime Minister has asked that the following reply
22 be conveyed to Mr Baccouche:

23 Begins

24 Thank you for your ~~timely~~ message of sympathy and condolences following
25 the weekend's tragedy in Sheffield. I shall ensure that
/// 26 your kind words are passed on to the bereaved and the injured.
// 27 Margaret Thatcher
/ 28 Ends

29 There will be no/no signed original to follow.

YYYY

MAIN

ADDITIONAL

NNNN

		Catchword: HOWE	
File number	Dept: NENAD	Drafted by (Block capitals): T LIVESLEY	Telephone no: 270 2468
Authorised for despatch by:	Initials	Date/time	
For COD use only	Comcen reference	Telegram number	Processed by

YFB6

07091 D418423070 50m 7/87 3656

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification	Caveat	Precedence
	CONFIDENTIAL		IMMEDIATE

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1 <<<<
2
3 HOWE
4
5
6 YYYY
7 MAIN
8 NENAD
9 PROTOCOL DEPT
10 NEWS DEPT
11 PS
12 PS/MR WALDEGRAVE
13 PS/PUS
14 MR TOMKYS
15 MR GORE-BOOTH
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17 ADDITIONAL
18 DOWNING STREET
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20 NNNN
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For distribution order see Page Catchword

YFB7/Cφ37C

Printed in the UK for HMSO 11/88 DdFCO0296 C500 27081

Qatar

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T836xiv/89

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS

Your Highness.

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

His Highness Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, KCMG.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T88bxiii/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS

LIMITED 6
CRD 2
~~GROUP~~ WAD 6
NEWS 9
CONSULAR 6
PS 7
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS
CHIEF CLERK
MISS PESTELL
MR FAIRWEATHER

ADDITIONAL
MR MOYNIHAN DOE
MR WALTERS F4 Home

cc FCO/PC

R 19/4

+++ TEST TIME 08:13 +++
+ TEST TIME 08:41 +++
+++ TEST TIME 09:10 +++
+++ TEST TIME 09:39 +++
+++ TEST TIME 10:07 +++
+++ TEST TIME 10:36 +++
+++ TEST TIME 11:05 +++
+++ TEST TIME 11:33 +++
297711 PRDRME G
5201 PREREP TG

ETAT PRIORITE
PRESIREPUBLITOGOLOME

A SON EXCELLENCE
MADAME MARGARETH TCHATCHER
PREMIER MINISTRE DE GRANDE BRETAGNE
LONDRES

Action in hand
[illegible]

319/89/T/PR.-

MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

C'EST AVEC UNE GRANDE CONSTERNATION QUE NOUS AVONS APPRIS LE DRAME CRUEL SURVENU A SHEFFIELD ET AU COURS DUQUEL 94 PERSONNES ONT TROUVE LA MORT EN VOULANT PENETRER SUR LE TERRAIN DE FOOT BALL.

CE DEUIL CRUEL QUI FRAPPE VOTRE PAYS AMI A SUSCITE UNE VIVE EMOTION AU SEIN DU PEUPLE TOGOLAIS.

DANS CES CIRCONSTANCES PENIBLES, JE VOUDRAIS, EN SON NOM, AU NOM DE SON PARTI D'UNION NATIONALE, LE ''RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEUPLE TOGOLAIS'', AU NOM DE MON GOUVERNEMENT ET EN MON NOM PERSONNEL, VOUS EXPRIMER NOS TRES VIVES CONDOLEANCES ET VOUS PRIER DE BIEN VOULOIR TRANSMETTRE NOS VOEUX DE PROMPTE GUERISON AUX BLESSES.

EN VOUS RENOUVELANT L'EXPRESSION DE NOTRE SINCERE COMPASSION ET DE NOS SENTIMENTS DE SOLIDARITE, JE VOUS PRIE D'AGREER, MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE, LES ASSURANCES DE NOTRE TRES HAUTE CONSIDERATION.

GENERAL GNASSINGBE EYADEMA
PRESIDENT-FONDATEUR DU RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEUPLE TOGOLAIS
PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE

TRIS LE 18/04/89 A 11£40

297711 PRDRME G
5201 PREREP TGMMM

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear Dr Vogel,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your kind thought in sending a message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at Sheffield. I shall certainly ensure that your words of condolence are conveyed to the families of the victims, and I am sure they will draw comfort from them.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Hisseine Habre

Embassy
The Democratic and Popular
Republic of Algeria

54 Holland Park, W11 3RS
Telephone 01-221 7800-4

London 18th April 1989

Mr Patterson

07 13/4.

The Algerian Embassy presents its compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office NENAD and has the honour to forward to them a message adressed to the Rt Honourable Mrs. M. THATCHER by His Excellency Mr. Kesdi MERBAH Prime Ministre to the Republic of Algeria.

The Algerian Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office NENAD the assurance of its highest consideration.

AMBASSADE D'ALGERIE LONDRES

Embassy of Algeria

Texte du message

J'ai ete profondement emu par le deuil qui vient de frapper votre pays a la suite des tragiques evenements du stade de Sheffield. En cette douleureuse et penible circonstance je vous adresse au nom du Gouvernement Algerien et en mon nom personnel nos sinceres condoleances et vous prie de transmettre aux familles des victimes l'expression de ma profonde sympathie.

AMBASSADE D'ALGERIE
LONDRES

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear Dr. Lambsdorff,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Dr. Otto Graf Lambsdorff

UNCLASSIFIED Mr Le Goy

cc PC

162267
MDLIAN 3836

cc EAD

f.a. ysc.

David G. Blunt
WED 18/i

UNCLASSIFIED
FM PARIS
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 497
OF 180949Z APRIL 89

FOR WED
SHEFFIELD: MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FROM PRESIDENT OF THE COMORES.

1. WE RECEIVED YESTERDAY FROM THE COMORES' EMBASSY HERE IN PARIS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER:

BEGINS:
PRIME MINISTER,
IT WAS WITH DISMAY AND THE DEEPEST REGRET THAT I LEARNED OF THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT AT THE FOOTBALL STADIUM IN SHEFFIELD DURING THE COURSE OF WHICH NEARLY ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES.
IN THESE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, BOTH FOR YOURSELF PRIME MINISTER AND FOR THE BRAVE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN, I WANTED TO OFFER YOU MY PERSONAL CONDOLENCES AS WELL AS THOSE OF MY GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE COMORES.
COULD I ALSO ASK YOU TO TRANSMIT OUR SYMPATHY TO THE SORELY TRIED FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS.
PLEASE ACCEPT, PRIME MINISTER, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.
AHMED ABDALLAH ABDEREMANE
PRESIDENT
ENDS.
(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF FRENCH TEXT, ORIGINAL TO BE FAXED SEPARATELY TO BLUNT, WED.)

2. GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD PASS THIS ON TO NO 10.

FERGUSSON

YYYY

GR

usual reply please

(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In connection with the tragedy at Sheffield's Stadium I would like to convey to you, Mrs. Prime Minister, my sincere condolences.

M.F. Rakowski
Chairman of the Council of Ministers
of the Polish People's Republic

ccPC
ccFCO

GR
usual reply
CBP.

AMBASADA POLSKIEJ RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ LUDOWEJ

No. 11-23/89

The Embassy of the Polish People's Republic presents its compliments to the Protocol Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to request that the enclosed messages of condolences from Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, Chairman of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic, and Mr. M.F. Rakowski, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic, be transmitted to the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Embassy of the Polish People's Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Protocol Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurance of its highest consideration.

London, 18th April, 1989.

AMBASADA POLSKA W LONDYNIE
352

Enc.

MANN

GR
Usual reply
ED

18 APR 1989/0922

ZCZC DLM1892 PLB344 ZT0476 TT0890

GBXX CO FRXX 085

PARIS 85/81 18 1021

R 19/4

MRS MARGARET THATCHER 1ST MINISTER 10 DOWNINGSTREET

LONDON

C'EST AVEC UNE PROFONDE EMOTION QUE LES FRANCAIS RESSENTENT LE DRAME SURVENU SAMEDI SUR LE STADE DE SHEFFIELD. AU NOM DU PARTI SOCIALISTE FRANCAIS ET EN MON NOM PERSONNEL, JE TIENS A VOUS ASSURER EN CES HEURES DE DEUIL, DE NOTRE SOLIDARITE ET DE NOTRE SYMPATHIE. JE VOUS PRIE D'AGREER MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE L'EXPRESSION DE MES CONDOLEANCES SINCERES ET ATTRISTEES, DE MON FIDELE HOMMAGE.

PIERRE MAUROY PREMIER SECRETAIRE DU PARTI SOCIALISTE FRANCAIS

British TELECOM International Telegram
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

CONFIDENTIAL

CC/F

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 April 1989

Dear Charles

/ I enclose a letter from the Tunisian Ambassador, Mr Abdelwaheb Abdallah to the Prime Minister conveying a message of condolence following the Hillsborough tragedy from Mr Hedi Baccouche the Tunisian Prime Minister.

/ I enclose a draft acknowledgement in the form of a telegram to Tunis.

We will inform the Tunisian Ambassador.

Yours ever

Bob Peirce

(R N Peirce
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

164030
MDHIAN 1144

UNCLASSIFIED
FROM BRIDGETOWN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 144
OF 181635Z APRIL 89

SHEFFIELD FOOTBALL TRAGEDY

1. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM MISS CHARLES THE PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA TO MRS THATCHER:

'' ON MY OWN BEHALF AND ON THE BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA I WISH TO EXTEND SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AS WELL AS TO THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED FOLLOWING THE RECENT TRAGEDY WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE SPORTS STADIUM IN LIVERPOOL. ENDS

BURNS

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION 44

MAIN 41

LIMITED
CRD
WIAD
NEWS
CONSULAR
PS
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS
CHIEF CLE
MISS PESTELL
MR GILLMORE
MR FEARN

ADDITIONAL 3

MR MOYNIHAN DOE
MR WALTERS F4 HOME OFFICE
PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST

NNNN

Embassy of Guatemala

13 Fawcett Street,
London SW10 9HN.
Tel: 01-351 3042

137-89

18th April 1989

Dear Madam,

On behalf of the Government of Guatemala, I should like to express our deepest sorrow and heartfelt condolences at the many deaths at Hillsborough this weekend.

Guatemala feels for the people of Britain at the time of this terrible tragedy.

Please accept our greatest sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Erwin Blandon
Ambassador

The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London S.W.1



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear Secretary-General

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Senor Javier Perez de Cuellar

cert FCO

DIS RET MES FM CANBE TO FCOLN OF 180240Z APR TELNO 00357
[DIS RET MES] [ ] I/T MSG [01] OF 01 DIST ONLY [ ] D
COMM [redacted]T

UNCLASSIFIED
FM CANBERRA
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 357
OF 180240Z APRIL 89

HILLSBOROUGH DISASTER

1. THE HON. R.B. ROWLAND SMITH MLC. NEW SOUTH WALES MINISTER FOR SPORT. RECREATION AND RACING HAS ASKED THAT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE PASSED TO THE HON. COLIN MOYNIHAN M P :

QUOTE
I WOULD LIKE TO PASS TO THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO ALL WHO WERE AFFECTED BY THE TRAGEDY AT SHEFFIELD'S HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM ON SATURDAY.

SUCH A DISASTER. IN THE HEART OF ENGLAND'S SOCCER REGION. REACHES OUT TO SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN EVERYWHERE.

WE IN NEW SOUTH WALES SHARE WITH YOU THE GRIEF AND SORROW OF THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THESE UNFORTUNATE LIVERPOOL SUPPORTERS.
UNQUOTE.

COLES

YYYY
ADVANCE 2
HD/CRD 1
MR MOYNIHAN/DOE 1
MAIN 41
LIMITED 6
CRD 2
NAD 5
NEWS 9
CONSULAR 6
PS 7
PS/MRS CHALKER 1
PS/MR EGGAR 1
PS/PUS 1
CHIEF CLERK 1
MISS PESTELL 1
MR FEARN 1
ADDITIONAL 2
MR MOYNIHAN DOE 1
MR WALTERS F4 HOME OFFICE 1
[SOMERVILLE]

RD 190841Z Dum Com SDP Successful
SVA:00 MSS:01 MIS:00 PTR:00 DEF:01 SYSMES:01 190851Z

930 4433
request FAX
Facilities

ccPC

ONE

DLM1132 ZGX2292 L291671513

GBXX CO LULU 104

LUXEMBOURG-TLX 20312 104/98 17 1735

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE

SECRETAIRE D ETAT AU FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH

OFFICE

LONDRES

CF
I assume originals have gone to addresses & they will reply.
CH

MONSIEUR LE SECRETAIRE D ETAT,

C EST AVEC TRISTESSE ET CONSTERNATION QUE J AI APPRIS LA NOUVELLE DES TRAGIQUES EVENEMENTS QUI SE SONT DEROULES A SHEFFIELD ET QUI ONT FRAPPE DE DEUIL LE ROYAUME-UNI.

EN VOUS ADRESSANT MES SENTIMENTS TRES EMUS JE ME FAIS L INTERPRETE DU GOUVERNEMENT ET DU PEUPLE LUXEMBOURGEOIS POUR VOUS FAIRE PART DE LEURS TRES SINCERES CONDOLEANCES AUX FAMILLES DES VICTIMES AINSI QU A TOUS LES SUJETS DE SA GRACIEUSE MAJESTE.

JACQUES F. POOS

MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

DU

GRAND-DUCHE DE LUXEMBOURG

AUTO

REC 29167A LUXG LU 29167A LUXG LU

For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book
International Telegram
British TELECOM

Disasters Hillsborough Apr 89

NNNN

18 APR 1989/0854

ZCZC DLM1855 NXA512 NCC179 AC44 TF464208

GBXX CY CYNC 057

NICOSIA 57/55 18 1005

ETAT

THE HON. COLIN MOYNIHAN M.P

MINISTER FOR SPORT

C/O HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

LONDON(SW1)

PLEASE ACCEPT THE SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE TRAGIC EVENTS AT SHEFIELD ON SATURDAY APRIL 15

THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS EXPRESS THEIR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS

ANDREAS PHILIPPOU

MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

International Telegram British TELECOM For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

930 4433
request FAX
Facilities

ccPC

ONE

DLM1132 ZGX2292 L291671513

GBXX CO LULU 104

LUXEMBOURG-TLX 20312 104/98 17 1735

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE

SECRETAIRE D ETAT AU FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH

OFFICE

LONDRES

CF

I assume originals have gone to addresses & they will reply.

CH

MONSIEUR LE SECRETAIRE D ETAT,

C EST AVEC TRISTESSE ET CONSTERNATION QUE J AI APPRIS LA NOUVELLE DES TRAGIQUES EVENEMENTS QUI SE SONT DEROULES A SHEFFIELD ET QUI ONT FRAPPE DE DEUIL LE ROYAUME-UNI.

EN VOUS ADRESSANT MES SENTIMENTS TRES EMUS JE ME FAIS L INTERPRETE DU GOUVERNEMENT ET DU PEUPLE LUXEMBOURGEOIS POUR VOUS FAIRE PART DE LEURS TRES SINCERES CONDOLEANCES AUX FAMILLES DES VICTIMES AINSI QU A TOUS LES SUJETS DE SA GRACIEUSE MAJESTE.

JACQUES F. POOS

MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

DU

GRAND-DUCHE DE LUXEMBOURG

AUTO

REC 29167A LUXG LU 29167A LUXG LU

NNNN

18 APR 1989/0854

ZCZC DLM1855 NXA512 NCC179 AC44 TF464208

GBXX CY CYNC 057

NICOSIA 57/55 18 1005

ETAT

THE HON. COLIN MOYNIHAN M.P

MINISTER FOR SPORT

C/O HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

LONDON(SW1)

PLEASE ACCEPT THE SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE TRAGIC
EVENTS AT SHEFIELD ON SATURDAY APRIL 15
THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS EXPRESS THEIR
SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS

ANDREAS PHILIPPOU

MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

18 April 1989

SHEFFIELD

I enclose a further batch of replies to messages of condolence from Heads of State and Government. I should be grateful if the texts could be sent to posts by telegram for delivery as soon as possible.

Charles Powell

Richard Gozney Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth office

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear M. President,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Monsieur Jean-Pascal Delamuraz

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

I was most grateful to receive your very kind message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield on 15 April. The support of our friends at such a sad moment is very much appreciated, and I know that your words will help bring comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

1. ✓

UNCLASSIFIED
FM TEL AVIV
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 118
OF 181130Z APRIL 89

SHEFFIELD DISASTER.

1. I HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SHIMON PERES:

'' PLEASE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING CABLE TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER.

DEAR MRS THATCHER

ALONG WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL I WAS DEEPLY SHOCKED TO HEAR OF THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN SHEFFIELD. PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES IN THIS DIFFICULT HOUR. THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL SHARE THE GRIEF OF THE BEREAVED FAMILIES AND WISH THE INUJURED A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

SINCERELY

SHIMON PERES
VICE PREMIER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE''

ELLIOTT

YYYY

2. Mrs Haywood.

P.O. have been told by No 10 that the PM will be answering this direct, as she has with ~~two~~ some others eg King Hussein, Presidents Mitterrand + Bush. But I have asked P.O. to confirm.

MW 21/4.

DISTRIBUTION 44

MAIN 41

LIMITED
CRD
NENAD
NEWS
CONSULAR
PS
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS
CHIEF CLERK
MISS PESTELL
MR GORE-BOOTH

CeFco
Pc

DIS RET MES FM NYMIS TO FCOLN OF 182225Z APR TELNO 00506
[DIS RET MES] [ ] I/T MSG [01] OF 01 DIST ONLY [ ] D
COMMENT

UNCLASSIFIED
FM UKMIS NEW YORK
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 506
OF 182225Z APRIL 89
INFO PRIORITY BIS BUENOS AIRES
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON

HILLSBOROUGH FOOTBALL DISASTER

1. MR DANTE CAPUTO'S CHEF DE CABINET HAS ASKED ME TO TRANSMIT TO THE PRIME MINISTER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE. SENT IN CAPUTO'S CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
BEGINS
''HER EXCELLENCY.
MRS. MARGARET THATCHER
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND

IN MY CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. PLEASE ACCEPT MY MOST SINCERE CONDOLENCES FOR THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIVES LAST SATURDAY 15 APRIL. AT HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM IN SHEFFIELD.

DANTE CAPUTO''

ENDS.

TICKELL

YYYY
MAIN 41
LIMITED 6
CRD 2
NAD 5
NEWS 9
CONSULAR 6
PS 7
PS/MRS CHALKER 1
PS/MR EGGAR 1
PS/PUS 1
CHIEF CLERK 1
MISS PESTELL 1
MR FEARN 1
ADDITIONAL 2
MR MOYNIHAN DOE 1
MR WALTERS F4 HOME OFFICE 1
[RICHMOND]

RD 190841Z Dum Com SDP Successful

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83bxii/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

NON OFFICIAL TRANSLATION

PRIME MINISTER,

THE NEWS OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS AT THE WEEK-END IN SHEFFIELD DEEPLY GRIEVED US.

PLEASE ACCEPT IN THESE SOMBRE CIRCUMSTANCES THE EXPRESSION OF OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES AND OF OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY.

HEDI BACCOUCHE

PRIME MINISTER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA.

NNNN

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83bxi/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
ORS.

17 APR 1989/1019

ZCZC DLN0748 VSA719 DSV095 PGA035

GBXX CY DHXX 095

DOHA 95/93 17 1146

ETAT

HER EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MRS. MARGARET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON

WITH DEEP SORROW WE HEARD THE SAD NEWS OF THE SPORTING TRAGEDY OF HISLBOROUGH STADIUM WHICH CAUSED THE DEATH OF MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF QATAR AND ON MY OWN BEHALF OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES AND HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BRITISH PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS.

KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL-THANI
AMIR OF THE STATE OF QATAR

COL ETAT

International Telegram
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book
British TELECOM

NNNN

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83bxi/89

17 APR 1989/1019 SUBJECT cc MASTER ORS.

ZCZC DLM0748 VSA719 DSV095 PGA035

GBXX CY DHXX 095

DOHA 95/93 17 1146

ETAT

HER EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MRS. MARGARET THATCHER

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KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL-THANI

AMIR OF THE STATE OF QATAR

COL ETAT

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T88bx/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS -

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 April 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

It was good of you to respond with sympathy to the terrible tragedy at the football match at Sheffield on Saturday. I shall certainly pass on your kind expression of sympathy to the families of the victims and I am sure they will draw comfort from them.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency De Heer Wilfried Martens.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83b/1x/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 April 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your kind message of sympathy following the terrible disaster at the Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield on Saturday. The support of our friends makes a great difference at times like these and your condolences will be of comfort to those who have suffered bereavement. I fear that the toll of dead and injured was very high, with many of them young people, which only adds to the tragedy.

Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. D. R. Lange, M.P.

cc PC

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

AUSTRALIA HOUSE
STRAND
LONDON WC2B 4LA
01-438 8220

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83bviii/89

17 April 1989

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
No. 10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

My dear Prime Minister,

I have been asked to pass to you the following message from the Australian Prime Minister Mr Hawke:

Text begins

Dear Margaret

I wish to express my deepest sympathy with the bereaved and the injured, after the tragedy at Sheffield's Hillsborough Stadium.

I was shocked by the deaths of so many people, including children, and I would like you to know that all Australians share your grief at this disaster.

Yours sincerely

Bob Hawke

Text ends.

May I also take this opportunity to convey to you on my own behalf and on behalf of the staff and families of the Australian High Commission sincere condolences for the Hillsborough tragedy.

I am also taking the liberty in writing to the Chairperson of the Liverpool City Council, Mrs Dorothy Gavin, to include the text of Mr Hawke's letter.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas McClelland

(Douglas McClelland)

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83b vii/89

17 APR 1989/1537

ZCZC ELM6038 MTA652

GBLB CY JOAM 078

ROYAL PALACE AMMNAN-JORDAN 78/76 17 1500

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

ETAT

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MRS. MARGARET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER

LONDON

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET AND SORROW THAT I RECEIVED THE SAD NEWS OF THE TRAGIC DEATH OF SO MANY PEOPLE AT SHEFFIELD'S HILLSBOROUGH FOOTBALL GROUND ON SATURDAY.

MAY I EXTEND, TO YOU PERSONALLY, AND TO THEIR FAMILIES, MY SINCERE

PAGE 02/026

AND HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES ON THIS VERY TRAGIC LOSS. I PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY GOD TO BLESS THEIR SOULS AND BESTOW UPON THEM HIS MERCY

HUSSEIN I

COL. NIL

British TELECOM International Telegram
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83bvii/89
SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

17 APR 1989/1537

ZCZC ELM6038 MTA652

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PAGE 02/026

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HUSSEIN I

COL. NIL

156604
MDADAN 5118

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T836vi/89
SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS

ADVANCE COPY

UNCLASSIFIED
FM NICOSIA
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 172
OF 171000Z APRIL 89

HILLSBOROUGH TRAGEDY: MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER FROM PRESIDENT VASSILIOU. BEGINS:

I EXPRESS THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS AND MYSELF FOR THE TRAGEDY AT HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM. PLEASE CONVEY TO THE RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES.

ENDS.

MAUD

YYYY

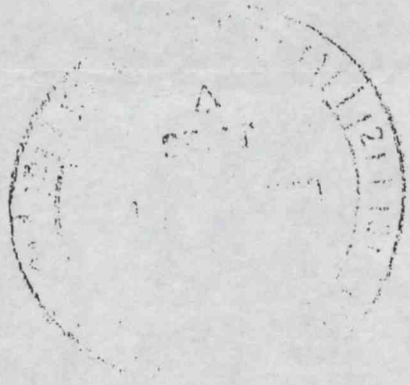
DISTRIBUTION 2

ADVANCE 2

HD/PROTOCOL

HD/SED

NNNN



1

South African Embassy
Trafalgar Square
LONDON WC2N 5DP

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 1836v/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS

17 April 1989

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and
Minister for the Civil Service
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AL

Dear Prime Minister

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa, I wish to convey my sincere condolences to you and to those bereaved as a result of the tragic event at the Hillsborough soccer stadium on 15 April 1989. The immense loss of life was received with great shock and deepfelt sympathy is extended to the families of the victims of the tragedy.

P W Botha
STATE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF SOUTH AFRICA

NNNN

T836iv/89

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO.

17 APR 1989/0949

ZCZC DLM0717 NBE946 JABF3988

GBXX BY CHBX 079

BERN 79/72 17 1036

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

ETATPRIORITE

SON EXCELLENCE

LA TRES HONORABLE MARGARET THATCHER

PREMIER MINISTRE DU ROYAUME UNI DE

GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD

LONDON

URGENT 5428 TRES EMU PAR LA TRAGEDIE SURVENUE AU STADE DE FOOTBALL DE SHEFFIELD JE PRIE VOTRE EXCELLENCE AU NOM DU CONSEIL FEDERAL SUISSE DE RECEVOIR ET DE BIEN VOULOIR TRANSMETTRE AUX FAMILLES DES VICTIMES MES TRES SINCERES CONDOLEANCES ET L'ASSURANCE DE MA PROFONDE SYMPATHIE

JEAN-PASCAL DELAMURAZ

PRESIDENT DE LA CONFEDERATION SUISSE

TOTAL P.05

International Telegram British TELECOM For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

NNNN

T83b iv/89

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO.

17 APR 1989/0949

ZCZC DLM0717 NBE946 JABF3988

GBXX BY CHBX 079

BERN 79/72 17 1036

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

ETATPRIORITE

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LA TRES HONORABLE MARGARET THATCHER

PREMIER MINISTRE DU ROYAUME UNI DE

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JEAN-PASCAL DELAMURAZ

PRESIDENT DE LA CONFEDERATION SUISSE

TOTAL P.05

NNNN

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83biii/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
17 APR 1989/1446 OPS.

ZCZC ELM5997 ZMA795 TXR147

GBXX CO ZALU 071

LUSAKA 71/70 17 1121

Jean

Usual reply please

ETAT

RT, HON MARGARET THATCHER,

PRIME MMINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON

I HAVE LEARNED WITH PROFOUND SHOCK OF THE ACCIDENT IN SHEFFIELD WHICH LED TO THE LOSS OF 94 LIVES AND MANY MORE INJURED. PLEASE ACCEPT MY VERY SINCERE CONDOLENCES AND MAY I ASK YOU TO EXTEND THESE TO ALL THE BEREAVED FAMILIES. MAY THE INJURED QUICKLY RECOVER

KENNETH D KAUNDA, PRESIDDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ZAMBIA

COLL 94 10

TOTAL P.01

Tele... For enquiries... number shown in... Phone Book International Telegram British TELECOM

PRIME MINISTER'S

NNNN PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T83biii/89

Jean

Usual reply please

AR

SUBJECT CC MASTER

17 APR 1989/1446 OPS.

ZCZC ELM5997 ZMA795 TXR147

GBXX CO ZALU 071

LUSAKA 71/70 17 1121

ETAT

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PRIME MMINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

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KENNETH D KAUNDA, PRESIDDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ZAMBIA

COLL 94 10

TOTAL P.01

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83b ii/89

17 APR 1989/1040

ZCZC DLM0771 MAA184 PGA020

GBXX BY IWPL 099

PORTLOUIS MAURITIUS 99/94 17 1300 PAGE1/50

SUBJECT & MASTER OPS

ETATPRIORITY

HER EXCELLENCY THE RT. HONOURABLE MRS. MARGARET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN

10, DOWNING STREET LONDON

I WAS DEEPLY AGGRIEVED BY THE TRAGEDY WHICH BEFELL THE HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM ON SATURDAY LAST WHICH COST THE LIVES OF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND CAUSED INJURIES TO EQUALLY A GOOD

COL ETATPRIORITY 10,

PGA020 ETATPRIOTIRY PAGE2/44

NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS AND IN MY OWN NAME, PLEASE ACCEPT EXCELLENCY OUR PROFOUNDEST SYMPATHY AND KINDLY TRANSMIT TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES THE EXPRESSION OF OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES. HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

ANEROOD JUGNAUTH PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS

International Telegram
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book
British TELECOM

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83b ii/89

17 APR 1989/1040

ZCZC DLN0771 MAA184 PGA020

GBXX BY IWPL 099

PORTLOUIS MAURITIUS 99/94 17 1300 PAGE1/50

SUBJECT & MASTER OPS

ETATPRIORITY

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PGA020 ETATPRIOTIRY PAGE2/44

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ANEROOD JUGNAUTH PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

5 LEXHAM GARDENS,
LONDON, W8 5JU.
Tel: 01-370 6105

London, 17 April 1989

Dear Madam,

I have the honour to transmit to you the message by Mr. Ante Markovic, President of the Federal Executive Council of the SFR of Yugoslavia. May I join in expressing my personal feelings of sincere and profound sympathy.

Please accept, dear Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration and profound respect.

Mitko Calovski
Ambassador

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
10 Downing Street
London SW1

CANADA

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

OTTAWA K1A 0A2

April 17, 1989

Dear Margaret,

I was extremely sorry to learn, over the weekend, of the tragic events at Sheffield where so many people were killed and injured. Please accept, on behalf of the Government of Canada, my heartfelt sympathies.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Mulroney

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
London, England

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83bi/89

OTTAWA K1A OA2

April 17, 1989

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

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Yours sincerely,

Brian Mulroney"

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
London, England

NNNN.

17 APR 1989/1714

ZCZC DLM1165 PLB306 KDF291 327

GBXX BY KDFL 138

NDJAMENA 138/130 17/04 1540

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T836/89

ETATPRIORITE

S.E. MME MARGARET THATCHER

PREMIER MINISTRE DU ROYAUNEUNI DE GRANDE BRETAGNE

LONDRES

MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE,

C'EST AVEC UNE VIVE EMOTION ET UNE GRANDE TRISTESSE QUE NOUS AVONS APPRIS LE TRAGIQUE INCIDENT SURVENU AU STADE DE SHEFFIELD ET QUI A COUTE LA VIE A PLUSIEURS DIZAINES DE VOS COMPATRIOTES.

EN CES CIRCONSTANCES PENIBLES, LE PEUPLE TCHADIEN, LE GOUVERNEMENT ET MOI-MEME VOUS ADRESSONS NOS CONDOLEANCES LES PLUS SINCERES ET LES PLUS EMUES ET VOUS PRIONS DE BIEN VOULOIR TRANSMETTRE AUX FAMILLES EPROUVEES TOUTE NOTRE COMPASSION.

EN VOUS RENOUVELANT L'EXPRESSION DE TOUTE MA SYMPATHIE PERSONNELLE POUR CE DEUIL, JE VOUS PRIE DE BIEN VOULOIR AGREER, MADAME LE PREMIER MINISTRE, L'ASSURANCE DE MA TRES HAUTE CONSIDERATION

International Telegram
British TELECOM
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VNNN

17 APR 1989/1714

ZCZC DLM1165 PLB306 KDF291 327

GBXX BY KDFL 138

NDJAMENA 138/130 17/04 1540

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS.

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T836/89

ETATPRIORITE

S.E. MME MARGARET THATCHER

PREMIER MINISTRE DU ROYAUNEUNI DE GRANDE BRETAGNE

LONDRES

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ETATPRIORITE

PRESIREPUBLIQUE MINAE ABIDJAN

A

MADAME MARGARET THATCHER

PREMIER MINISTRE DU ROYAUNE UNI

DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET D IRLANDE DU NO

LONDRES

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83a/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

NO.75270

J AI APPRIS AVEC CONSTERNATION LA TRAGEDIE DU STADE DE SHEFFIELD
QUI ENDEUILLE LE PEUPLE BRITANNIQUE.
EN CES INSTANTS DE GRANDE DOULEUR JE VOUS ADRESSE A VOUS-MEME
ET

COL GRANDE-BRETAGNE NO.75270 VOUS-MEME

840 GX PAGE 02/37

AU GOUVERNEMENT NOS CONDOLEANCES LES PLUS ATTRISTEES ET VOUS PRIE
DE BIEN VOULOIR TRANSMETTRE AUX FAMILLES EPLOREES DES VICTIMES
L EXPRESSION DE NOTRE TRES VIVE COMPASSION
TRES HAUTE CONSIDERATION

FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY

PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE COTED'IVOIRE

COL HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY COTED'IVOIRE

International Telegram
British TELECOM
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

ETATPRIORITE

PRESIREPUBLIQUE ABIDJAN

MADAME MARGARET THATCHER

PREMIER MINISTRE DU ROYAUNE UNI

DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET D IRLANDE DU NO

LONDRES

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T83a/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS.

NO.75270

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EN CES INSTANTS DE GRANDE DOULEUR JE VOUS ADRESSE A VOUS-MEME

ET

COL GRANDE-BRETAGNE NO.75270 VOUS-MEME

840 GX PAGE 02/37

AU GOUVERNEMENT NOS CONDOLEANCES LES PLUS ATTRISTEES ET VOUS PRIE

DE BIEN VOULOIR TRANSMETTRE AUX FAMILLES EPLOREES DES VICTIMES

L EXPRESSION DE NOTRE TRES VIVE COMPASSION

TRES HAUTE CONSIDERATION

FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY

PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE COTED'IVOIRE

COL HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY COTED'IVOIRE

NNNN

150 - 443
A/F CON TO:-
FAX

17 APR 1989/1231

ZCZC DLN0906 ZGX2157 DP8911G890

GBXX CO DPBN 074

BONN/TF 74 17 1210

TR 028

H. E. MRS MARGRET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDON OF GREAT BRITAIN

AND NORTHERN IRELAND

10, DOWNING STREET

LONDON

DEAR MRS PRIME MINISTER

DEEPLY MOVED BY THE TRAGIC DEATH OF SO MANY PEOPLE IN SHEFFIELD THE BUREAU OF FREE DEMOOCRATIC PARTY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY OFFERS YOU ITS CONDOLENCE AND EXPRESSES ITS SYMPATHY WITH THE VICTIMS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE WHOLE BRITISH NATION

DR. OTTO GRAF LAMBSDORFF

CHAIRMAN FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Inte. Telegra. British TELECOM International Telegram For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

[redacted]

NNNN

17 APR 1989/1231

ZCZC DLM0906 ZGX2157 DP8911G890

GBXX CO DPBN 074

BONN/TF 74 17 1210

TR 028

H. E. MRS MARGRET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN

AND NORTHERN IRELAND

10, DOWNING STREET

LONDON

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DR. OTTO GRAF LAMBSDORFF

CHAIRMAN FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

17 APR 1989/1021

ZCZC DLN0750 VSA721 DSV096 PGA036

GBXX CY DHXX 056

DOHA 56/54 17 1146

ETAT

HER EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MRS. MARGARET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON

WITH MUCH PAIN I EXTEND TO YOUR EXCELLENCY MY DEEP SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE SPORTING DIASTER OF HILSBOROUGH STADIUM.

HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL-THANI

HEIR APPARENT AND MINISTER OF

DEFENCE OF THE STATE OF QATAR

COL ETAT

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HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL-THANI

HEIR APPARENT AND MINISTER OF

DEFENCE OF THE STATE OF QATAR

COL ETAT

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17 APR 1989/1033

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THE RIGHT HONORABLE MARGARET THATCHER FRS MP

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

MADAME PRIME MINISTER COMMA I SHOULD LIKE TO CONVEY TO YOU MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN SHEFFIELD STOP PLEASE EXTEND TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS MY HEARTFELT SORROW ON THIS SAD OCCASION STOP HIGHEST CONSIDERATION

JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR SECRETARY-GENERAL

British TELECOM International Telegram
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

CYPRUS HIGH COMMISSION
93, PARK STREET,
LONDON W1Y 4ET
Tel.: 01-499 8272
Telex: 263343
Telefax: 01-491 0691

17th April, 1989.

RB

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA.

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Court of St. James's and myself I would like to convey to you our condolences and deep sympathy for the terrible tragedy at Hillsborough last Saturday, which has shocked us as millions throughout the world.

Our collective thoughts turn to the families of the victims who so tragically lost their lives.

Yours sincerely,

Tasos Panayides
High Commissioner for Cyprus
Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps.

CCPC
NEFCO

Already received

6, CONVENT PLACE,

THE CHIEF MINISTER. GIBRALTAR.

17 April 1989

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher FRS MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

Dear Prime Minister,

I was extremely sorry to hear of the tragedy which occurred last Saturday in Sheffield and I should like to offer sincere condolences on behalf of the people of Gibraltar.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Bossano.

181052Z SEND MEM SVB

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PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE HON MARGARET THATCHER.
PRIME MINISTER

FROM THE HON H L STOUTT. CHIEF MINISTER. BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS ARE SHOCKED AND SADDENED BY THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY THAT TOOK PLACE IN SHEFFIELD ON SATURDAY. YOU AND THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS HAVE OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AT THIS TIME OF BEREAVEMENT.

GEORGES

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MAIN 40
LIMITED
CRD 6
WIAD 2
NEWS 5
CONSULAR 9
PS 6
PS/MR EGGAR 7
PS/PUS 1
CHIEF CLERK 1
MISS PESTELL 1
MR FEARN 1
ADDITIONAL 2 1
MR MOYNIHAN DOE
MR WALTERS F4 1
(HOME OFFICE) 1

[JM^S]

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TO PRIORITY FCO LONDON
TELNO 92
OF 171555Z APRIL 89

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SIC SAM
TO PRIORITY FCO LONDON

FM GIBRALTAR

TELNO 92

OF 171555Z APRIL 89

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF MINISTER TO PRIME MINISTER.

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER:

BEGINS:

2. I WAS EXTREMELY SORRY TO HEAR OF THE TRAGEDY WHICH OCCURRED LAST SATURDAY IN SHEFFIELD AND I SHOULD LIKE TO OFFER SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF GIBRALTAR.

ENDS.

2. THE SIGNED ORIGINAL FOLLOWS BY BAG.

TERRY
BT

YYYY

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PS TO PM

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Hillsborough Stadium Disaster

3.30 pm

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Douglas Hurd): With permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a statement about the disaster at the Sheffield Wednesday football club ground at Hillsborough on Saturday. Everyone has been horrified by this incredible tragedy in which 94 lost their lives and 174 were injured.

Shortly after the start of the match, there was a surge of spectators on the Leppings lane terrace, which crushed many at the front against the perimeter fence. This accounted for most of the deaths and injuries.

The match was due to start at 3 pm. To help ensure orderly access, the gates of the ground were opened at 12 noon. At 2.30 pm most of the Nottingham fans were in the ground, but many of the Liverpool supporters were still arriving. It was clear to the police officers in charge that there was ample capacity still to be filled in some parts of the enclosure allocated to Liverpool.

At about 2.45 pm there was a large crowd of Liverpool supporters at the turnstiles in Leppings lane behind the west stand. There was difficulty in coping with the pressure on the turnstiles, and the police used loud hailers to urge the crowd to be patient. At about 2.50, more Liverpool supporters arrived and the numbers in front of the turnstiles increased. Some supporters started to climb the walls and turnstiles, and those at the front of the crowd outside the stadium were under considerable pressure from those behind.

The senior police officer present considered that there was a possible danger to the lives of the spectators at the front of the crowd outside the stadium. In order to relieve the pressure, he arranged for an exit gate near the turnstiles to be opened to let a section of the crowd through. The relationship of that action to the disaster on the terrace shortly afterwards is clearly a central question to be investigated.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and I yesterday visited the football ground and the two Sheffield hospitals which received casualties. I should like to pay tribute to all those involved in the rescue operations at the ground, including the many spectators who gave their help, and to those others, including the hospital staffs and voluntary agencies, who have since been working so hard treating the injured and consoling the bereaved. We heard many accounts of courage exerted on behalf of others.

I have asked for further factual reports from the police and other services, the local authority and the Football Association. Inquests will be held in due course. But over and above this, there is clearly need for a full and independent inquiry to identify the causes of the disaster and to examine what needs to be done to prevent such an accident happening again. I have therefore asked Lord Justice Taylor to carry out an inquiry with the following terms of reference:

"To inquire into the events at Sheffield Wednesday football ground on 15 April 1989 and to make recommendations about the needs of crowd control and safety at sports grounds."

Mr. Brian Johnson, the chief constable of Lancashire, has agreed to assist the inquiry as an assessor, and arrangements will be made as necessary for other qualified assessors to be appointed and for the inquiry to be provided with technical advice and support. I am asking that the inquiry should proceed with all possible speed. Lord Justice Taylor will visit Sheffield tomorrow to begin his investigation. I am grateful to him for agreeing to undertake this task.

However, we need also to take a wider view. The Government believe that the future of football in this country lies in a national membership scheme in designated grounds—*[Interruption.]*—and now, it seems, also in providing all-seated accommodation at major football clubs. This would involve the disappearance of terraces at those grounds. It might also involve amendments to strengthen the Football Spectators Bill so that its provision for the licensing of grounds matched this concept. We shall be considering these matters urgently.

An appeal fund is being set up by the civic authorities of Liverpool, Nottingham and Sheffield. The Government will be contributing £500,000 immediately towards this fund.

This was a devastating tragedy. Our deep sympathy goes to the families of those who died, to those recovering, and—particularly moving yesterday—to those young people who are still fighting for life and health. We owe a duty, it seems to us, to these passionate supporters of football to examine urgently and thoroughly the causes and the background, and to do all in our power to prevent such a thing from happening again. We have to set our sights high and find a better way for British football.

Mr. Roy Hattersley (Birmingham, Sparkbrook): May I, first of all, offer the deepest sympathy of my right hon. and hon. Friends and myself to all those who were injured in or bereaved by this terrible tragedy. Little that we say will help them at this moment, but I hope that they find some comfort in the knowledge that the whole country shares their grief and suffering. We also offer our hopes for a full recovery to those 17 patients still in intensive care.

May I also express our gratitude to and our admiration for all those individuals who did such remarkable work saving lives, comforting the dying, and helping the injured —police, fire officers, the ambulance service, St. John Ambulance Brigade, doctors and nurses, the staff of the club, and the football supporters who acted with such great discipline and compassion?

May I go on to welcome the Home Secretary's decision to set up a public inquiry, and express our hope that its report will lead to immediate and decisive action? May I ask the Home Secretary about the police inquiry that is to be carried out at the same time? Can we be assured that neither its proceedings nor its conclusions will delay or inhibit the public inquiry that he has announced today? We need an unequivocal and authoritative account of what happened at Hillsborough, why it happened, and what must be done to prevent such a thing from ever happening again. On the face of it, two parallel inquiries are not the best way to achieve that result.

The report emanating from the public inquiry must be followed by a reorganisation of football ground control, which may take some time to achieve. I refer, for example, to the replacement of terraces with seats. But some action must be taken at once. Will the Home Secretary issue an immediate instruction to those safety committees and chief constables who have insisted upon football clubs installing perimeter fences? Many football clubs have warned for years that perimeter fencing is a potential danger. On Saturday it proved lethal. It must not be maintained where lives are put at risk.

TUNISIAN EMBASSY

29 PRINCES GATE
LONDON SW7
TEL: 01-584 8117

No.316/Prot.
AA/JP.

17th April 1989.

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher,M.P.
Prime Minister
10,Downing Street
London
SW1.

Dear Prime Minister,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a telex from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tunisia,Mr Hédi Baccouche, together with a non-official translation.

The deep shock I felt when I heard the news of this tragic event cannot be expressed in words.

Please accept my heartfelt and sincere condolences and convey my deepest sympathy to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Abdelwaheb ABDALLAH.
AMBASSADOR.

TUNISIAN EMBASSY

29 PRINCES GATE
LONDON SW7
TEL: 01-584 8117

No.317/Prot.
AA/JP.

The Tunisian Embassy presents its compliments to the Near East & North Africa Department of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and has the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher,M.P.,Prime Minister from Mr Hédi Baccouche, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tunisia.

The Tunisian Embassy would be most grateful if this letter could be duly forwarded and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Near East & North Africa Department of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office the assurances of its highest consideration.

London,17th April 1989.

Near East & North Africa Dept.
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
London
SW1.

WNNN

17 APR 1989/1355

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THE PRIME MINISTER

10 DOWNINGSTREET

LONDONSW1

R1874

I AND ALL IN MY MISSION SHARE WITH THE PEOPLE
OF BRITAIN THE SHOCK AND HORROR OF THE
HILLBOROUGH TRAGEDY STOP OUR PRAYERS AND
SYMPATHY ARE WITH YOU ALL ESPECIALLY THE
BEREAVED ON YOUR TRAGIC LOSS

FEESAGO S.FEPULEAT HIGH COMMISSIONER OF WESTERN SAMOA

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17 APR 1989/1150

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ETAT

THE RT. HONOURABLE MARGARET M.P

PRIME MINISTER

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1

IT WAS WITH GREAT SORRY THAT I LEARNED OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN SHEFFIELD ON SATURDAY. WHAT MUST BE HARDEST TO BEAR WAS THE INABILITY OF THE AUTHORITIES AND RESCUE SERVICES TO MINIMIZE THE TRAGEDY ONCE THE EVENTS UNFOLDED. I EXPRESS MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILEES WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES AND ALSO TO THE NANY INJURED.

PLEASE ACCEPT PRIME MINISTER MY PROFOUND SYMPATHY FOR YOUR PERSONAL SORROW AND ANXIETY AT THIS SAD AND DISTRESSING TIME

HAMAD BIN ISA AL-KHALIFA

CROWN PRINCE AND COMMANDER- IN - CHIEF

OF THE BAHRAIN DEFENCE FORCE BAHRAIN

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17 APR 1989/1150

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TR 029

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THE RT. HONOURABLE MARGARET M.P

PRIME MINISTER

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LONDON SW1

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HAMAD BIN ISA AL-KHALIFA

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OF THE BAHRAIN DEFENCE FORCE BAHRAIN

ПОСОЛЬСТВО
СОЮЗА СОВЕТСКИХ
СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКИХ РЕСПУБЛИК

The Rt.Hon. Mrs. M.Thatcher, MP
Prime-Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

17 April 1989

Mr. M.S.Gorbachev has learnt with sadness about the disaster at the stadium in Sheffield and about the large number of casualties.

Life indeed brings unexpected tragic situations both in our and in your countries.

Mr. M.S.Gorbachev asked me to convey to you his sympathy. He fully understands your feelings of concern and grief on this occasion.

May I also offer my personal sympathy to you and through you the condolences to the relatives of the bereived.

Yours sincerely,

L. Zamyatin

L. Zamyatin
USSR Ambassador

EMBASSY OF BELGIUM

London, 17th April 1989.

Dear Prime Minister,

I would like to convey herewith the message Mr. Wilfried Martens addresses to you on the occasion of the Hillsborough tragedy.

May I take this opportunity to express my own heartfelt sympathy ?

Yours sincerely,

J.P. van Bellinghen,
Ambassador.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.

New Zealand High Commission

New Zealand House
Haymarket
London SW1Y 4TQ
Telephone 01-930 8422
Telex 24368
Facsimile No. 01-839 4580

Reference:

17 April 1989

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher FRS MP
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury
10 Downing Street

Dear Mrs Thatcher

I have just been asked to pass on to you the following message from our Prime Minister:

"My dear Prime Minister

The deaths and injuries sustained by soccer fans at the Hillsborough Stadium last Saturday have shocked New Zealand.

We are both sports-loving nations and the sheer magnitude of the tragedy is quite benumbing.

On behalf of all New Zealanders I offer my condolences to those who have lost loved ones and friends at Hillsborough.

Yours sincerely
David Lange"

May I add my own deep sympathy for all who have suffered in this disaster.

Yours sincerely

Roger Douglas

CCP

CC FCO

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON

April 17, 1989

CDN 814

Dear Prime Minister:

I have been asked to deliver the attached message to you from President Bush. It was passed along to your office on Saturday evening.

All of us at the Embassy join with the President in extending our heartfelt condolences to those touched by Saturday's tragedy.

Sincerely,

Raymond Seitz

R. G. H. Seitz
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

Attachment

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

AMBASÁID NA hÉIREANN, LONDAIN



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

17 Grosvenor Place

SW1X 7HR

CDP
17/4

17 April 1989

Dear Private Secretary

I am enclosing herewith a message to the Prime Minister The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP FRS, from the Taoiseach, Mr Charles J Haughey TD, the text of which I conveyed by telephone on Saturday afternoon.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

Andrew O'Rourke
Ambassador

Mr Charles D Powell
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Enc

after the criticism which was made about that sell-off the Government would not have the nerve to come forward again with similar proposals. Yet this Bill does not contain anything like adequate assurances that the assets which belong to the people—whether they are ratepayers or taxpayers—will not simply be used as a benefit for private profit.

If we look at water quality, the problem there is very serious indeed. There are a million households in this country with water supplies which contain nitrates at a level which is above that permitted by the European Community. For example, the Anglian Water Authority will have to spend from between £60 million and £70 million over 10 years in order to deal with that problem. We have taken no effective steps to deal with European Community rules on pesticides. Ten per cent. of Welsh households are at risk from excessive lead in their water. A vast amount of investment is required and it is required as a result of neglect over a significant number of years. Moreover, the privatisation procedure which we have before us does not give us any confidence that that neglect will be dealt with.

I could extend the arguments about the environment at some length. However, many of my noble friends are much better informed than I on such matters. I have no doubt that they will be talking about the polluters pays principle; they will be talking about codes of practice for leisure access to water authority land and they will raise many other points with which I simply do not have time to deal.

I make it clear, as I did before, that we welcome the National Rivers Authority. We wish it well. We wish it adequate resources, staffing and powers. We do not however welcome many of the powers of the Director General of Water Services.

I now refer to our responsibilities towards consumers. The problem we have with the consumer regulation proposed in the Bill is that the Director General of Water Services has direct control for customer service committees which are set up under the Bill. We believe, just as we believe that the codes of practice should be statutory, that the customer service committees should be independent of the Director General of Water Services who has responsibilities which are different from looking after the consumer.

The Bill is defective in so many ways that it would be impossible for me to pinpoint even the most important. I shall pick one example only which shows the way in which the treatment of consumers and the environment is inadequate in the Bill and will need to be amended as the Bill proceeds through your Lordships' House. That example relates to the duties of the Secretary of State and the Director General of Water Services under Clauses 7 and 8. Despite strong protests over the past months as the Bill was going through another place, the Bill still says that the first duty of the Director General of Water Services and of the water company plcs is to achieve a reasonable return on assets. It is only subject to that duty that there is any protection for the consumer or the environment. While that conflict exists, and while the return on assets takes priority over the interests of the consumer and the environment, we shall not be reassured that the consumer and the environment are beneficiaries of the privatisation procedures.

On all those matters, we find a conflict in the privatisation proposals, the terms of this lengthy and elaborate Bill and the interests of the consumer, the environment and the economy. The *Daily Telegraph*—no enemy of the Government—summed the whole matter up a few weeks ago by describing it as a "wholly misguided venture". It said:

"It is still not too late to think again".

I urge the Government to listen carefully to the arguments which will be put forward on all those points; to listen with an open mind and not to reject them out of hand; and to seek to improve the Bill as it passes through your Lordships' House.

I warn the Government that whatever they may think about the Bill, the privatisation of water is deeply offensive to the people of this country. That has been proved over and over again. I repeat the words of my right honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition who, echoing the words of Joseph Chamberlain, said only last week:

"Water is our country's largest natural monopoly. We in the Labour Party believe that it must be publicly controlled and fully accountable. We will end the private monopoly and bring the water industry back into public control".

Hillsborough Disaster

3.34 p.m.

Earl Ferrers: My Lords, with the leave of the House, it may be convenient if I repeat a statement about the disaster at the Sheffield Wednesday Football Club ground at Hillsborough Stadium on Saterday which is now being made in another place by my right hounourable friend the Home Secretary. The Statment is as follows:

"Everyone has been horrified by this incredible tragedy in which 94 lost their lives and 174 were injured.

"Shortly after the start of the match there was a surge of spectators on the Leppings Lane terrace which crushed many at the front against the perimeter fence. This accounted for most of the deaths and injuries.

"The match was due to start at 3 p.m. To help ensure orderly access, the gates of the ground were opened at 12 noon. At 2.30 p.m. most of the Nottingham fans were in the ground, but many of the Liverpool supporters were still arriving. It was clear to the police officers in charge that there was ample capacity still to be filled in some parts of the enclosure allocated to Liverpool.

"At about 2.45 p.m. There was a large crowd of Liverpool supporters at the turnstiles in Leppings Lane behind the West Stand. there was difficulty in coping with the pressure on the turnstiles and the police used loudhailers to urge the crowd to be patient.

"At about 2.50 p.m. more Liverpool supporters arrived and the numbers in front of the turnstiles increased. Some supporters started to climb the walls and turnstiles and those at the front of the

[EARL FERRERS.]

crowd outside the stadium were under considerable pressure from those behind.

"The senior police officer present considered that there was a possible danger to the lives of the spectators at the front of the crowd outside the stadium. In order to relieve the pressure he arranged for an exit gate near the turnstiles to be opened to let a section of the crowd through. The relationship of that action to the disaster on the terrace shortly afterwards is clearly a central question to be investigated.

"My right honourable friend the Prime Minister and I yesterday visited the football ground and the two Sheffield hospitals which received casualties. I should like to pay tribute to all those involved in the rescue operations at the ground, including the many spectators who gave their help; and to those others, including the hospital staffs and voluntary agencies who have since been working so hard treating the injured and consoling the bereaved. We heard many accounts of courage exerted on behalf of others.

"I have asked for further factual reports from the police and other services, the local authority and the Football Association. Inquests will be held in due course. But over and above this, there is clearly need for a full and independent inquiry to identify the causes of the disaster and to examine what needs to be done to prevent such an accident happening again. I have therefore asked Lord Justice Taylor to carry out an inquiry, with the following terms of refrence:

"To inquire into the events at Sheffied Wednesday football ground on 15th April 1989 and to make recommendations about the needs of crowd control and safety at sports events."

"Mr Brian Johnson, the Chief Constable of Lancashire, has agreed to assist the inquiry as an assessor; and arrangements will be made as necessary for other qualified assessors to be appointed and for the inquiry to be provided with technical advice and support. I am asking that the inquiry should proceed with all possible speed. Lord Justice Taylor will visit Sheffield tomorrow to begin his investigation. I am grateful to him for agreeing to undertake this task.

"However, we need also to take a wider view. The Government believe that the future of football in this country lies in a national membership scheme in designated grounds, and now it seems also in providing all-seated accommodation at major football clubs. This would involve the disappearance of terraces at those grounds. It might also involve amendments to strengthen the Football Spectators Bill so that its provisions for the licensing of grounds matched this concept. We shall be considering these matters urgently and bringing forward changes as soon as possible.

"An appeal fund is being set up by the civic authorities of Liverpool, Nottingham and Sheffield. The Government will be contributing £500,000 immediately towards this fund.

"This was a devastating tragedy. Our deep sympathy goes to the families of those who died, to those recovering and to those still fighting for life and health. We owe a duty to these passionate supporters of football to examine urgently and thoroughly the causes and background, and to do all in our power to prevent such a thing happening again."

My Lords, that concludes the text of the statement.

3.42 p.m.

Lord Elwyn-Jones: My Lords, I should like to thank the noble Earl, Lord Ferrers, for repeating the sombre Statement of the Home Secretary. The whole House will join with him in offering our deep sympathy to the bereaved families of the many victims and to those who were injured in Saturday's terrible tragedy at Hillsborough. The whole nation shared, and still shares, in their grief and their suffering.

Perhaps I may express our gratitude to all who responded so quickly at the scene of the tragedy to what was going on and who worked so admirably in saving, and trying to save, lives, in comforting the dying and in helping the injued. I refer to the police officers, the fire officers, the doctors, nurses, the hospitals and other emergency services. It is a particular satisfaction, in view of other previous events, to say thank you also for the endeavours of the football supporters on the ground. On Saturday they acted with discipline and compassion. No one behaved badly that day.

We welcome the decision of the Home Secretary to set up a public inquiry and the appointment of Lord Justice Taylor to conduct it, with assistance. The public will need an unequivocal and authoritative account of what happened at Hillsborough, why it happened and what needs to be done to prevent any disaster of that kind ever happening again. It seems clear that the report of the inquiry will be followed by a reorganisation of football ground control and that this may take some time to achieve.

The greatest emphasis so far—and the Statement of the Home Secretary seems to point to this—has been placed on replacement of standing terraces with seating accommodation. But will not some action be taken at once about one particular matter? Will the Home Secretary consider making an immediate recommendation to those safety committees and chief constables who have insisted on football clubs instaling perimeter fences giving urgent thought to their existence and to the part they played in Saturday's tragedy? I am informed that many football clubs have warned for years against perimeter fencing on the ground that it was a potential danger. On Saturday it seems to have proved lethal. I think that the House may well wish to know what the Government will do about that immediate, limited but important matter.

May we assume that the recommendations of the public inquiry will not simply be about conditions inside football grounds on which public attention has previously been focused, but also about crowd control outside the turnstiles and on the way to matches when large crowds are anticipated? Was not this a critically relevant factor last Saturday?

I end with an assurance of the Opposition's ready co-operation in passing any legislation directed to ensuring the safety of the public who come for enjoyment to football matches, so popular a feature of our lives. The nation expects that out of Saturday's tragedy effective steps will be taken to protect the safety of the public and its enjoyment of sport.

Lord Harris of Greenwich: My Lords, I join with the noble and learned Lord, Lord Elwyn-Jones, in thanking the noble Earl, Lord Ferrers, for repeating the Statement. Is he aware that in this appalling tragedy all of us are grateful to the emergency services who did such magnificent work? Again, I join the noble and learned Lord, Lord Elwyn-Jones, in paying tribute to the very large number of football supporters, both of Nottingham Forest and of Liverpool, who gave assistance to those who had been so grievously injured in this episode.

Perhaps I may ask the noble Earl, Lord Ferrers three questions. First, is he aware that we warmly welcome the appointment of Lord Justice Taylor to conduct the inquiry and the fact that Mr. Brian Johnson, the chief constable of Lancashire, has agreed to be one of the assessors?

Is the noble Earl prepared to indicate whether Lord Justice Taylor will be invited to produce an interim report on one particular question? That is the issue of perimeter fencing. The noble and learned Lord, Lord Elwyn-Jones, has already referred to that, but it is clear that it was a major factor in this dreadful disaster. Is the noble Earl aware that many of us hope that, if Lord Justice Taylor forms a view on the matter, he will be encouraged to produce an interim report dealing with it so that Parliament can take appropriate action?

Is the noble Earl, Lord Ferrers, aware that although there was a reference to the Football Spectators Bill in the Statement which he has just repeated, many of us think it inappropriate to become involved in an argument once again on this matter? We shall have the opportunity of debating it on Third Reading next week. But is the noble Earl also aware that it is clear that the large crowds trying to gain admission at the turnstiles in Leppings Lane just before the match began were clearly a significant factor in what happended thereafter? We can deal with that matter next Monday, but the noble Earl will recognise that we shall want to debate the subject if the Government intend to continue with the Football Spectators Bill in its present form.

Lastly, is the noble Earl aware that many of us agree with the Statement by the Home Secretary that the idea of having all seated facilities at football matches has now been clearly and dramatically placed on the agenda again? If Lord Justice Taylor forms a conclusion on the matter at an early stage in the inquiry, is the noble Earl prepared to indicate that the Government would welcome an interim report from him on that issue as well?

Lord Ferrers: My Lords, I am grateful to both the noble and learned Lord, Lord Elwyn-Jones, and the noble Lord, Lord Harris of Greenwich, for the manner in which they have accepted the Statement which refers to one of the most horrifying accidents that we have seen recently.

The noble and learned Lord, Lord Elwyn-Jones, asked what action the Government would be prepared to take with regard to the perimeter safety fencing. He will recall that many grounds have the fencing in direct response to the Popplewell inquiry and that the fences were put up for reasons of added safety. Obviously that is a matter which will be considered by the public inquiry. I think it would not be appropriate to take advance decisions as yet upon that. However I note the noble and learned Lord's concern.

He also referred to the crowd control outside the football stadium. I had cause to inquire how many police were involved. There were 773 police involved at the football match, two-thirds of whom were outside the stadium and one-third inside. To those who are concerned that there were not enough police at the ground, I would merely say that that figure works out at about one policeman for every 70 spectators.

The noble Lord, Lord Harris of Greenwich, asked whether we would welcome an interim report from Lord Justice Taylor. I think he will be concerned to make an interim report, if he feels he is able to when he has considered the circumstances. I am sure he will realise the apprehension and concern that exists for an immediate response, provided it can be done with success and dignity.

The noble Lord, Lord Harris of Greenwich, also referred to the Football Spectators Bill. I realise the concerns which he and others have. It is right to say that the Government consider it seemly to delay the programme of the Bill for a short while in respect of what has happened.

Baroness Stedman: My Lords, from these Benches we also wish to thank the noble Earl for the Statement which he has made. However, we regret the reasons why he had to make it. I wish also to extend our sympathy to the bereaved and injured and our appreciation to the emergency services and to the spectators who behaved so well when this happened.

We agree with the suggestion in the Statement that the time has come to move towards all-seated acommodation. We think that only stadia providing that kind of accommodation should be licensed to stage the big games. If perimeter fencing and penning is continued on grounds of safety, we suggest that the design of the penning should be urgently reviewed. It would appear from what we saw on television over the weekend that there was room at the sides of the terraces but the design of the penning was such that those in the middle could not move sideways to get into areas where there was space.

We think the methods of communication between the police inside the ground and those outside should be urgently reviewed, so that both know what is going on in their particular area. Perhaps, with hindsight, if there had been better communication on Saturday, the police outside might have asked for the kick off to be postponed and might have been able to placate the crowd and carry out an orderly admission into

[BARONESS STEDMAN.]

the ground. The frustration of those who could not get into the ground confirms the view of many of us that this is the kind of thing that is likely to happen if ID cards are issued. We support any move to delay the implementation of the Football Spectators Bill and the ID cards, at least until grounds have been looked at again, and until the seating and the accommodation for spectators is satisfactory.

Earl Ferrers: My Lords, I am grateful to the noble Baroness for her comments. I understand her views about all-seated accommodation and that a licence should reflect that. The Government are also thinking along those kinds of lines. With regard to the methods of communication concerning crowd control between police inside and outside grounds, that is obviously a matter which Lord Justice Taylor will be considering.

Lord Campbell of Croy: My Lords, I join in the sympathy expressed by other noble Lords to the bereaved families, and in the gratitude to those who gave immediate help. The last occasion in this country when crowd pressure caused a disaster was in Glasgow on 1st January 1971 at a Celtic-Rangers match. More than 60 people lost their lives that afternoon. I have the sad recollection of visiting the ground shortly afterwards, as Secretary of State for Scotland, and of visiting the injured in hospital. As a consequence of that tragic episode, a committee was set up under the chairmanship of the late Lord Wheatley who, besides being a distinguished judge, was a keen follower of football.

After the Wheatley Committee's recommendations had been digested, many of us hoped that the dangers of crushing in football crowds had been removed. Besides considering the report of the Hillsborough inquiries now being set in train, will the Government check whether all appropriate action has been taken on the recommendations of the Wheatley Committee?

Earl Ferrers: My Lords, I shall certainly see that the point made by my noble friend is looked into.

Lord Mason of Barnsley: My Lords, Saturday was a sorrowing day for football supporters and a sad and salutary day for the football clubs. However, is it not time that football clubs stopped treating their supporters as caged prisoners of war? This method is no conducive to safety. As the Minister suggested in the Statement, increased safety will come with increased comfort and decent conditions. It is about time clubs improved their facilities in keeping with the needs of decent human beings.

In the light of recent events, I ask the Government to abandon Part I of the Bill proposing the football membership scheme. The scene that we witnessed outside the Sheffield Wednesday ground last Saturday could be a preview of the operation of the football membership scheme—a malfunctioning computer, then mayhem, with the possibility of another surge into the ground.

The fences went up because of pitch invasions by football hooligans. If, as the Football League and the Football Association have repeatedly said—this was argued strongly during the course of the Bill in Committee—they have put their house in order within the grounds and there is no trouble any more, then why not pull down the fences and see if sanity prevails. If so, the Football Spectators Bill can be scrapped?

Earl Ferrers: My Lords, I am grateful to the noble Lord for his suggestions. I think that anyone who saw the pictures of the events that occurred last Satuday would have some sympathy with the feelings of the noble Lord about people being in cages. However, I should just remind the noble Lord that those fences were put up in order to prevent some of the other disastes which we had previously witnessed. What very often happens is that when a disaster occurs, one reacts to that and often that has another effect later on.

I understand the view which the noble Lord has expressed. I would only say to him that our intention is that these places must be safe. All these matters are bound to be looked at afresh in view of what has happened, but safety is important. The noble Lord asked whether we would abandon Part I of the Football Spectators Bill. I am bound to tell him that the whole purpose of that Bill is to prevent hooliganism and to allow for ordered football matches. I know it is controversial and I do not wish to get into that kind of controversy this afternoon. However, I think the noble Lord will understand if I say that the Government do not intend to abandon it.

Lord Dean of Beswick: My Lords, I join with previous speakers in expressing deep condolences to the bereaved in this terrible tragedy. However, the noble Earl must be aware that during my short time in this House this is the third time that a Minister has risen from the Government Front Bench to make a Statement on appalling tragedies in football that could have been avoided. I am talking about the Bradford disaster which took place near where I live and the Heysel disaster involving heavy loss of life which resulted in extensive debates in your Lordships' House. We have had the Popplewell Report.

Part II of the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 is introduced by the words, *Application of Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 to all sports grounds.* Can the noble Earl give an undertaking that the committee of inquiry to be set up under Lord Justice Taylor will make a detailed investigation as to whether these particular conditions have been adopted, applied and enforced? Bearing in mind that the victims of these disasters are always football spectators, will the Government give urgent consideration to representatives of supporters in general being included on the committee of inquiry under Lord Justice Taylor? I think that that would make the inquiry more generally acceptable and would destroy any suggestion of a whitewash, of which in the past there has been more than a whiff.

I should like to support my colleague on the Front Bench, the noble and learned Lord, Lord Elwyn-

Jones, in his request for the immediate removal of those zoo-like bars which are placed behind the goals, supposedly in order to prevent hooliganism. There is no record of any spectator in this country dying in a football ground as a result of hooliganism. There is a record of an 18 year-old supporter of Tottenham Hotspur being knifed in Belgium, for which no one was brought to trial. Will the Government give consideration immediately to the removal of those bars, which played a major part in the appalling sequence of events at Hillsborough on Saturday?

4 p.m.

Earl Ferrers: My Lords, the noble Lord, Lord Dean of Beswick, asked whether safety conditions would be considered. He will realise that under the terms of reference of the inquiry, Lord Justice Taylor will be in a position to consider those safety conditions if he thinks fit.

The noble Lord asked whether supporters will be included in the inquiry. That will not be so.

Lord Dean of Beswick: Why?

Earl Ferrers: My Lords, if the noble Lord will contain himself, I shall explain. The inquiry is to be conducted by Lord Justice Taylor, who will have with him an assessor—or more than one assessor—in order that he may reach his conclusions as quickly as possible. It is not the intention to have a whole range of individuals to assist him, although he can call upon assistance and advice as he thinks fit.

The noble Lord said that sometimes in the past there has been a whitewash. I thought that that remark was unfortunate. I can assure the noble Lord that there is no intention of any whitewash. What has happened is an absolute disaster. We want to find the best way of ensuring so far as we can that it does not happen again.

Lord Taylor of Blackburn: My Lords, I should like to ask the noble Earl a question regarding the assessor. I do not believe that the Home Office has realised the implications. The chief constable who has been asked to serve as an assessor is a very respected chief constable and a personal friend of mine. Nevertheless, taking into account the fact that the inquiry will be conducted by an eminent lawyer and a chief constable, I feel that it would be wise for the Home Office to appoint another person and to name that other person. I accept that the judge can call upon other assessors, but I think that it would be advisable for the Home Office to name another assessor from outside the legal profession or the police authorities.

Earl Ferrers: My Lords, I quite see the point of view of the noble Lord, Lord Taylor. The Statement states:

> "Mr Brian Johnson, the Chief Constable of Lancashire, has agreed to assist the inquiry as an assessor; and arrangements will be made as necessary for other qualified assessors to be appointed and for the inquiry to be provided with technical advice and support".

Other assessors can and will be provided.

Lord Hatch of Lusby: My Lords, all of us who have participated, either actively or as spectators, in any sport felt deeply shocked and saddened this weekend. I join in the condolences that have been sent to the bereaved in this disaster and in the appreciation of the magnificent work that was done on the field and outside the ground, particularly by the inhabitants of the locality of Hillsborough all through the night.

I should like to ask the noble Earl two questions. First, in view of the implications of the disaster for the Government's objective in the Football Spectators Bill of increasing safety in football grounds, do the Government not consider that the progress of the Bill should be suspended, at least until the preliminary report of the judicial committee is published?

Secondly, I have know the Hillsborough ground and its surrounding area for many years. I should like to raise with the noble Earl one point which has not been raised so far. It is a point about which I doubt whether he has any knowledge and he may not be able to answer my question this afternoon. If he cannot, I hope that he will draw it to the attention of his right honourable friend and see that an answer is given.

I have talked to people who spent all night comforting the bereaved and helping to organise them in the grisly task of identifying the dead bodies of their relatives and friends. That process went on until the early hours of Sunday morning.

The reports that I have had at first hand indicate that there was very little direction, no leadership, and a great deal of chaos. A great deal of pain was suffered by those who had to wait until the early hours of the morning for the process of identification. Can the noble Earl say who is responsible for the organisation of the social services and the essential help for those who find themselves in that distressing situation in such a disaster? This applies to all disasters. Is there any central agency that can organise the many willing helpers? As I understand —and I stress, as I understand—from those who participated, there was virtually no direction, no leadership and no organisation.

Earl Ferrers: My Lords, whether or not those matters to which the noble Lord, Lord Hatch of Lusby, referred are fact will undoubtedly come out in Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry. I can tell the noble Lord that when anything of such a nature happens, the emergency services—fire, police and ambulance—take the lead. There are plans for dealing with disasters of this nature. I have not heard reports which lead me to believe that the situation was as the noble Lord, Lord Hatch, has suggested.

The noble Lord referred to the Football Spectators Bill. As I explained earlier, the Government think it seemly to delay the progress of the Football Spectators Bill for a short time in deference to what has happened.

Lord Hatch of Lusby: My Lords, is the noble Earl assuring the House that the judicial inquiry will include an examination of what happened during the night following the disaster?

Earl Ferrers: No, my Lords. The judicial inquiry has its own terms of reference. They would enable Lord Justice Taylor to cover those points if he thought it appropriate.

Water Bill

4.8 p.m.

Second Reading debate resumed.

Lord Ezra: My Lords, the privatisation of water is probably the most controversial of the privatisation measures which this Government have introduced. I think it right to recall briefly the way in which their thinking on privatisation appears to have developed.

Initially the intention was to transfer to the private sector from the public sector those enterprises which could respond positively to competition; namely, those which were either already in a competitive situation or potentially in one. Such bodies for example as Amersham International, Jaguar, Associated British Ports, National Freight, National Bus, Britoil, were transferred.

That policy seemed to be confirmed in the Conservative Party's manifesto in 1983. That stated:

"Merely to replace state monopolies with private ones would be to waste an historic opportunity".

Clearly, here was a statement of intent that, when there were transfers from the public to the private sector, they should be within the framework of competition. However, that policy seemed to be modified in due course. When the Government turned their attention to the privatisation of what had previously been regarded as public utilities, that raised an entirely new issue. There was then very little escape from the fact that, in transferring those massive organisations to the private sector, they would be so transferred either as total monopolies or as quasi monoplies. That raised the whole difficult question of regulation.

Our first experience of that matter was with Telecom. I do not believe that one can say that the first few months at any rate of the experience of the privatised Telecom organisation was regarded as entirely successful, although, to be fair, it is making very great efforts to recover from that experience now. Then there was the example of the gas industry which was simply transferred as it stood as a public monopoly into the private sector, in spite of many qualms being expressed on this side of the House. While there was some degree of regulation for the domestic market, there was none at all for the industrial market. In due course, that matter was referred to the Monopolies Commission which ruled that there had been an abuse of monopoly. Corrective action has now been taken. That lesson appears to have been learnt regarding the electricity industry, and efforts are being made to introduce a degree of competition at the generating end.

However, in the case of water, it is difficult to see how any major element of competition can be introduced. That raises the whole question of the way in which it is being handled. Initially, when the Government announced their intention to privatise water, they did so in the White Paper of 1986 in which the intention was to privatise the 10 water authorities as they stood on the basis of the river catchment areas, on which basis they had been created in the Water Act of 1973.

However, in due course, the Government changed their mind. They were subjected to a considerable amount of pressure from varying interests, and after the 1987 election they came forward with the proposals that we now have before us. I believe that it would be a pity if, because the Government have changed their mind—no doubt on reasonable grounds—we should in any way demean the very substantial contribution made by the water authorities on the river catchment basis. Initially, when the Government came out with their changed proposals, the chairmen of the water authorities were virtually unanimous in their opposition to the proposal. They since appear to have come round.

We are now concerned with the new proposals. There are undoubtedly very grave doubts about the matter, as the noble Lord, Lord McIntosh of Haringey, mentioned. As regards consumers, there has probably not so far been a measure so unpopular—certainly not among privatisation measures—which has struck the public imagination. Noble Lords will have seen the many reports on consumers' reactions. I have in front of me one of the latest which I received this morning from the Consumers Association. It conducted surveys in November and February and noticed very little change in consumers' response. I do not wish to go into detail, but the report stated:

"For every positive comment—for example, that service or water quality would get better—we recorded 11 negative ones".

Rightly or wrongly therefore there is a perception of serious doubt about the measure in the public mind. I should have thought it important for Parliament to try to allay those doubts in whatever ways we can.

As regards environmental groups, they too are very dubious about the impact of the measures. Grave concern has been registered by a whole variety of groups in which Members of all sides of this House are much involved. That matter will undoubtedly be dealt with later. So far as we on these Benches are concerned, my noble friend Lord Ross of Newport will deal with that matter when he speaks.

The noble Lord, Lord McIntosh of Haringey, expressed the doubts that potential investors have expressed about this sort of investment with its severe and restrictive regulation. There are therefore doubts all round. I believe that we shall have to bear those doubts in mind as we go through the various stages of dealing with the Bill.

Against that background, I should like to draw attention to some of the specific issues which I feel will attract a good deal of attention when we come to later stages. Let us start with the National Rivers Authority. I believe that the NRA concept, as it has now developed, has obtained pretty strong support. We heard that point made by the noble Lord, Lord McIntosh of Haringey, and we on these Benches support the concept. It is satisfactory to note that, in his organsation of the matter, the noble Lord, Lord Crickhowell, puts the emphasis on its regional organisation. That is fine; but I am a little disturbed

Hillsborough Stadium Disaster

3.30 pm

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Douglas Hurd): With permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a statement about the disaster at the Sheffield Wednesday football club ground at Hillsborough on Saturday. Everyone has been horrified by this incredible tragedy in which 94 lost their lives and 174 were injured.

Shortly after the start of the match, there was a surge of spectators on the Leppings lane terrace, which crushed many at the front against the perimeter fence. This accounted for most of the deaths and injuries.

The match was due to start at 3 pm. To help ensure orderly access, the gates of the ground were opened at 12 noon. At 2.30 pm most of the Nottingham fans were in the ground, but many of the Liverpool supporters were still arriving. It was clear to the police officers in charge that there was ample capacity still to be filled in some parts of the enclosure allocated to Liverpool.

At about 2.45 pm there was a large crowd of Liverpool supporters at the turnstiles in Leppings lane behind the west stand. There was difficulty in coping with the pressure on the turnstiles, and the police used loud hailers to urge the crowd to be patient. At about 2.50, more Liverpool supporters arrived and the numbers in front of the turnstiles increased. Some supporters started to climb the walls and turnstiles, and those at the front of the crowd outside the stadium were under considerable pressure from those behind.

The senior police officer present considered that there was a possible danger to the lives of the spectators at the front of the crowd outside the stadium. In order to relieve the pressure, he arranged for an exit gate near the turnstiles to be opened to let a section of the crowd through. The relationship of that action to the disaster on the terrace shortly afterwards is clearly a central question to be investigated.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and I yesterday visited the football ground and the two Sheffield hospitals which received casualties. I should like to pay tribute to all those involved in the rescue operations at the ground, including the many spectators who gave their help, and to those others, including the hospital staffs and voluntary agencies, who have since been working so hard treating the injured and consoling the bereaved. We heard many accounts of courage exerted on behalf of others.

I have asked for further factual reports from the police and other services, the local authority and the Football Association. Inquests will be held in due course. But over and above this, there is clearly need for a full and independent inquiry to identify the causes of the disaster and to examine what needs to be done to prevent such an accident happening again. I have therefore asked Lord Justice Taylor to carry out an inquiry with the following terms of reference:

"To inquire into the events at Sheffield Wednesday football ground on 15 April 1989 and to make recommendations about the needs of crowd control and safety at sports grounds."

Mr. Brian Johnson, the chief constable of Lancashire, has agreed to assist the inquiry as an assessor, and arrangements will be made as necessary for other qualified assessors to be appointed and for the inquiry to be provided with technical advice and support. I am asking that the inquiry should proceed with all possible speed. Lord Justice Taylor will visit Sheffield tomorrow to begin his investigation. I am grateful to him for agreeing to undertake this task.

However, we need also to take a wider view. The Government believe that the future of football in this country lies in a national membership scheme in designated grounds—*[Interruption.]*—and now, it seems, also in providing all-seated accommodation at major football clubs. This would involve the disappearance of terraces at those grounds. It might also involve amendments to strengthen the Football Spectators Bill so that its provision for the licensing of grounds matched this concept. We shall be considering these matters urgently.

An appeal fund is being set up by the civic authorities of Liverpool, Nottingham and Sheffield. The Government will be contributing £500,000 immediately towards this fund.

This was a devastating tragedy. Our deep sympathy goes to the families of those who died, to those recovering, and—particularly moving yesterday—to those young people who are still fighting for life and health. We owe a duty, it seems to us, to these passionate supporters of football to examine urgently and thoroughly the causes and the background, and to do all in our power to prevent such a thing from happening again. We have to set our sights high and find a better way for British football.

Mr. Roy Hattersley (Birmingham, Sparkbrook): May I, first of all, offer the deepest sympathy of my right hon. and hon. Friends and myself to all those who were injured in or bereaved by this terrible tragedy. Little that we say will help them at this moment, but I hope that they find some comfort in the knowledge that the whole country shares their grief and suffering. We also offer our hopes for a full recovery to those 17 patients still in intensive care.

May I also express our gratitude to and our admiration for all those individuals who did such remarkable work saving lives, comforting the dying, and helping the injured —police, fire officers, the ambulance service, St. John Ambulance Brigade, doctors and nurses, the staff of the club, and the football supporters who acted with such great discipline and compassion?

May I go on to welcome the Home Secretary's decision to set up a public inquiry, and express our hope that its report will lead to immediate and decisive action? May I ask the Home Secretary about the police inquiry that is to be carried out at the same time? Can we be assured that neither its proceedings nor its conclusions will delay or inhibit the public inquiry that he has announced today? We need an unequivocal and authoritative account of what happened at Hillsborough, why it happened, and what must be done to prevent such a thing from ever happening again. On the face of it, two parallel inquiries are not the best way to achieve that result.

The report emanating from the public inquiry must be followed by a reorganisation of football ground control, which may take some time to achieve. I refer, for example, to the replacement of terraces with seats. But some action must be taken at once. Will the Home Secretary issue an immediate instruction to those safety committees and chief constables who have insisted upon football clubs installing perimeter fences? Many football clubs have warned for years that perimeter fencing is a potential danger. On Saturday it proved lethal. It must not be maintained where lives are put at risk.

achievement of these standards lies with the New Buildings sub-committee of the Services Committee, which I am sure is aware of the need to protect and promote the interests of the House.

Mr. Knox: Can my right hon. Friend guarantee that as much money will be spent on the accommodation of Members of Parliament as has been spent on Ministers' and civil servants' accommodation in Richmond house?

Mr. Wakeham: I am sure that my hon. Friend is thinking of the restored eighteenth century rooms fronting Richmond terrace. A decision was quite properly taken to restore and refurbish these rooms in a way that was appropriate to their age and artistic distinction. The other accommodation in Richmond house is equipped from standard Civil Service ranges, and , as I have said, the standard of furnishings and fittings for Members in phase 1 of the new buildings is already being looked at.

Terrace

60. **Mr. Harry Greenway:** To ask the Lord President of the Council whether he has any plans to arrange for the establishment of permanently constructed reception and dining areas on the Terrace of the House of Commons; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Wakeham: No, Sir. The Terrace pavilion is intended to operate from Easter until Christmas.

Mr. Greenway: Can my right hon. Friend tell us more about the facility that was unveiled last week? How much did it cost; how many will it accommodate and for what principal functions; and when does he expect it to be in general use?

Mr. Wakeham: I can tell my hon. Friend some of the information that he requires. The total cost is not expected to exceed £150,000; 75 per cent. of that will come from the Refreshment Department's trading fund account and the remainder from the parliamentary works account. It is planned as a viable project that will not only pay its own costs but is expected to contribute to the general running costs of the Refreshment Department. It will operate from Easter until Christmas each year.

Mr. John Evans: Was the green and white candy-striped edifice that has just been erected sanctioned by the Royal Fine Art Commission?

Mr. Wakeham: I think that it was to replace a temporary building that was put up before—that question did not arise.

Mr. McLoughlin: I welcome my right hon. Friend's answer, but does he accept that the first priority should be to provide a reception area at the Norman Porch, so that when constituents come down they do not have to stand in the rain to wait to see the place to which they should have access?

Mr. Wakeham: There is a question later in the Order Paper on that subject. Certain proposals are being discussed by the authorities in this House and in another place. We hope to make some progress shortly.

Closed Circuit Link

61. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Lord President of the Council if he will make it his policy to make available to all Members who wish it, a closed circuit television link from the Chamber.

Mr. Wakeham: As Chairman of the Select Committee that is currently considering the televising of our proceedings, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on such matters before the recommendations of the Committee are known.

Mr. Allen: Is the Lord President aware that in the United States members of Congress have access to a sound link and to closed-circuit television? Will he at least consider incorporating such a proposal for the consideration of the House in the forthcoming report?

Mr. Wakeham: The hon. Gentleman will have to wait for our report. I am sure that a number of hon. Members feel that colleagues already spend too little time in the Chamber and would strongly oppose any further move that would worsen that situation.

Mr. Latham: My right hon. Friend is right. Is not the best way to find out what is going on in the Chamber to come in here and listen?

Mr. Wakeham: I agree with my hon. Friend, but he will have to await publication of our report to see our views on that.

Visitors

62. **Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Lord President of the Council if he has any further statement to make with regard to providing improved facilities for visitors to the Houses of Parliament; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Wakeham: The Accommodation and Administration Sub-Committee has submitted specific proposals to the Administration Committee of the other place, where it is generally recognised that there is a need to improve the arrangements for visitors at the Norman Porch. Those proposals are, I understand, receiving sympathetic consideration.

Mr. Skinner: Why does it take so long to resolve this problem? For donkey's years questions have been asked in the House about improving facilities for visitors coming to this place, yet when somebody decides to build a boudoir with Liberace-type candelabra on the Terrace for the top people, the necessary money can be found at the drop of a hat. If we cannot get the other matter resolved would it not be a good idea to allow visitors to occupy that place?

Mr. Wakeham: I am sure that the hon. Gentleman will recognise that the problems in dealing with this are not just concerned with money because there is also the question of security. Some steps have been taken but, unfortunately, discussions are still going on and at this stage I am not in a position to say anything further.

Mr. Jessel: Is my right hon. Friend aware that I have been here for nearly 19 years? During that time I have had over 300 visitors and not one of them has ever complained about the facilities.

Mr. Wakeham: I am delighted to hear that.

We assume that the recommendations of the public inquiry will concern crowd control outside the turnstiles and on the way to matches—not simply organisation and accommodation inside grounds. In the light of that, will the Home Secretary consider the implications of any policy or legislation that results in concentration of crowds outside grounds immediately before matches? The potential consequences of football supporters being held in large numbers outside turnstiles was demonstrated yesterday. Nothing must be done to make such concentrations more likely or more frequent.

Most informed opinion, including that of the police, insists that the concentration of supporters outside turnstiles would be the certain result of part I of the Football Spectators Bill. This morning's decision to push that Bill through Parliament even while the inquiry is sitting is neither rational nor sensitive to the mood of the country. We shall oppose it with every legitimate means at our disposal.

I offer the co-operation of the Opposition for any legislation that is genuinely concerned with football safety. Indeed, I do more: I assure the Home Secretary of my party's profound wish that proposals on safety at football grounds can be made with the general support of all political parties and wholly free from political controversy. It will clearly be in the interests of everybody to obtain unanimous agreement on a subject that has nothing whatever to do with party politics. I ask the Home Secretary to try to achieve that agreement.

Mr. Hurd: I am grateful for the earlier part of the right hon. Gentleman's statement, which expressed sentiments on which the House is united. He raised several particular points. The chief constable of South Yorkshire took the view, which I think the right hon. Gentleman will probably consider right, that since the actions of some of his force will be central to any inquiry, it is right that another force, and one with experience in these matters, should undertake the police work that is necessary both in preparation for inquests and to submit the necessary information to Lord Taylor's inquiry. Therefore, he made the announcement to which the right hon. Gentleman referred. I do not think that there is any confusion or duplication. The work to be carried out by the chief constable of the West Midlands force will be at the service of Lord Justice Taylor, and will not cut across what he does.

The right hon. Gentleman spoke about barriers and perimeter fencing, and it is worth answering that point in a little detail. As the right hon. Gentleman knows, they are not a statutory requirement, but they are in many places a requirement imposed by the local authorities as a condition of the safety certificate, which is required under the law. The purpose of the barriers and in particular of the perimeter fences is to increase security and improve protection from one type of threat—that of violence.

Mr. Hattersley: Not violence—hooliganism.

Mr. Hurd: That is their purpose. We have yet to find satisfactory means of ensuring that, in removing one hazard, the authorities do not create another.

The Home Office guidance, which the right hon. Gentleman will have studied, specifically lays down the importance of exits on to the pitch through the perimeter fence for emergency purposes. No one who saw the fence and the gate at Hillsborough or listened to those who tried to get through it, often in vain, can believe that the right answer was found on that occasion. It must be for Lord Justice Taylor and the inquiry to look into that. He is aware—I discussed the matter with him this morning—that if he believes, as he may well, that there are certain matters—perhaps this one—that require an urgent interim report, so that steps can be taken in advance of the next football season, he will be able to do that.

The right hon. Gentleman referred to the Football Spectators Bill. The next stage of the Bill was to have been Third Reading in another place, on Monday next. We believe that the House and the other place will agree that it is seemly to have a short delay in that. Perhaps after that delay, the best course would be for the Bill to complete its stages in the other place so that any additions that we propose in the light of my earlier statement can be introduced when it comes to this House. In the first instance, that is a matter for the usual channels in another place.

Several Hon. Members *rose*——

Mr. Speaker: Order. I know that I speak for the whole House when I say that we are all appalled at this tragedy. Our sympathy goes out to the relatives of those who have been killed and to the injured. It may not be possible for me to call every hon. Member who wishes to ask a question, but I propose to give precedence to those whose constituencies are most directly affected.

Mr. David Blunkett (Sheffield, Brightside): As the Member of Parliament representing the area that covers the ground and the Northern general hospital, I wish to reiterate what has already been said in paying tribute to those who helped, in the ground, in the community around and at the two major hospitals in Sheffield, to deal with the dead and injured. I offer my sympathy and those of colleagues in the city of Sheffield to the bereaved and to those families whose relatives have been injured. I am sure that we all want to consider every possible way of avoiding such an incident ever occurring again.

I ask the Home Secretary to confirm that the Sheffield Wednesday football club has done more than most clubs in investing more than £1 million over the past 10 years in improving safety and facilities in a ground that must be one of the best of the top two or three football league grounds in the country.

I hope that the Home Secretary will confirm that the inquiry will accept the task of considering how we might change the image of football. Will it be possible for us to take a fresh look at how we treat football spectators? The behaviour of a few has led to a concentration on actions and attitudes whereby fans are treated as hooligans, or potential hooligans, rather than as human beings.

No one would condone the pressure and the late arrival of fans outside the game on Saturday, but we want to see facilities for entertainment, catering and comfort in grounds begin to restore decency and a sense of purpose. I speak as someone who sat on a small wall behind the goal at Hillsborough when I was a child without fear or anything happening to me or to those around me.

I ask the Home Secretary to reject the alleged statement this afternoon by the president of UEFA, in which he described fans as "beasts". I hope that the Home Secretary will say that we shall restore dignity and a sense of decency to our football supporters and to the viewing of football in Britain.

Mr. Hurd: I am grateful to the hon. Gentleman for his comments. I agree willingly that Sheffield Wednesday has put massive investment into modern facilities at the Hillsborough ground. The terms of reference of Lord Justice Taylor are wide and will enable him to range over what he thinks is essential. I agree that those whom my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and I visited yesterday in the hospitals were human beings who had suffered greatly in body and, sometimes, in mind as well. No one who made those visits could conceivably think of them in any other way.

I agree also with the main thrust of the question of the hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett). It is by building up the comfort and the conditions of the game and its high reputation that we can attract more and more people to become spectators and restore the attractiveness of the game. That will mean raising our sights, and thinking of new ways of doing that. That is why we have come to the conclusion that seated accommodation in the larger stadiums is an important part of the objective which the hon. Gentleman states.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point): Our hearts go out to the bereaved families, but surely our thoughts should be concentrated on what lessons should be learnt for general application thoughout the country. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary did not refer to one pressing matter. Is he aware that, over the past three years, ever since the inquiry of Mr. Justice Popplewell, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, which has unrivalled experience in providing first aid at sports grounds, has been pressing the Home Office, local authorities and the Football Association to provide much higher standards of medical care and equipment at football stadiums throughout the country.

If it has not been possible outside London to achieve these standards—in London it has been all right—will my right hon. Friend take appropriate action in advance of the inquiry? There is clearly a need to ensure that in any breakdown where injury is inflicted, the rescue services and the magnificient work done by the St. John Ambulance Brigade are not frustrated by a lack of proper facilities.

Mr. Hurd: My right hon. Friend is right to draw attention to the criticisms that have been made. He may have heard the doctor from Glasgow give his considered talk on that matter on the radio this morning. I understand that before the match began two ambulances were at the ground together with attendants from the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The first call for additional ambulances was received by the ambulance service at eight minutes past three and within 17 minutes a total of 10 additional ambulances had attended. We spoke yesterday to the head of the ambulance service. Its record of quick recourse is a good one. However, it does not help with my right hon. Friend's point about the facilities already at the ground. I imagine that that is a matter to which Lord Justice Taylor will want to give urgent attention.

Mr. Eric S. Heffer (Liverpool, Walton): These are probably the most difficult questions that I have ever had to ask in the House of Commons. I say that because many of my constituents and many of the constituents of my colleagues who represent Liverpool and Merseyside, as well as elsewhere, are dead or injured because of the great tragedy at Hillsborough. I am thinking of the families and of the people who are bereaved.

It is a tragedy that should never have happened. The people of Liverpool in particular are in deep mourning but there is also a measure of anger because, as has been urged elsewhere, they feel that steps should have been taken well before the match to avoid such things happening.

Although the attitude that the Government have adopted has been sympathetic, may I urge them not to go ahead at the moment with their proposals? Please be sensitive to the feelings of our people. Is the Home Secretary aware that I have, recently, received letters from some of those who died urging that the Government should not introduce the scheme because they felt that it would add to the existing problems? I urge the Government, please desist at least until the report is published. Let us have another look at the situation.

May I also urge the Government to take some immediate steps? For God's sake, do not let our people be trapped like animals again. I am an Evertonian—I do not often attend Liverpool matches and I was not at this one —but I saw on television the agony and the dreadful scenes when young people, children and others had their lives crushed out of them, not only because of the perimeter fences but because of the barriers. We must ensure that this never happens again anywhere in the country.

Those who are in authority and who had not foreseen that such a situation could develop cannot run away from their responsibilities. The last thing that I want to do is to create a scapegoat and I do not want to condemn the policeman outside the ground who made a decision, thinking, perhaps, that he was saving lives. I just want us to look at the whole situation again, again and again, so that such a tragedy does not happen again.

The interests of the spectators should be put before the interests of everybody else. They must be treated as civilised human beings, not as the enemies of society. Yes, a few enemies of society may get into football grounds from time to time, but our lovely people of Liverpool— and those elsewhere—must never suffer again because they have suffered too much already.

Mr. Hurd: Anyone who watched on television the reaction of people in Liverpool, particularly at the services in and outside the cathedrals yesterday, will know that the hon. Gentleman was right in the way that he started his question. There is also absolutely no doubt from what we heard yesterday that the hon. Gentleman is right to talk about people being trapped, crushed and helpless. That leads back to the point about perimeter fences. The hon. Gentleman is right also to advise against a rush to judgment. Yesterday, we listened to many accounts of what happened from casualties and witnesses. The broad thrust of what they said tallied. However, there were discrepancies—as there usually are—on many important points of detail. It is for precisely that reason that an inquiry is needed.

There is no particular difficulty about part II of the Football Spectators Bill. As to part I, the national membership scheme is designed as a remedy against violence. Violence was not present at Hillsborough on Saturday, but it has been the curse of the game and might be again unless we find the right remedy. The remedy in the Bill flows from the Popplewell report on the last disaster —*[Interruption.]* In considering the Hillsborough disaster, it would be foolish to forget the lessons of earlier disasters.

The action that we propose is reasonable. I mentioned the parliamentary delay that we believe to be seemly. I mentioned also that we want to go forward and not back on the Football Spectators Bill and on the concept of a national membership scheme, which we believe to be necessary and right. We must go forward, to see whether the Bill's licensing provisions need to be strengthened, to make possible the move to all-seated accommodation in big stadiums, which we believe is the right way to proceed. There will be consultations and discussions about that possibility. If we reach the conclusion that the Bill needs to be altered and strengthened in that way, we shall bring that conclusion to the House.

Sir Neil Macfarlane (Sutton and Cheam): Is my right hon. Friend aware that right hon. and hon. Members in all parts of the House wholeheartedly share his sentiments about the heroic acts that took place on Saturday? I shall be grateful if he will address his mind to two points that I will put to him. I associate myself in many ways with the comments of the hon. Member for Liverpool, Walton (Mr. Heffer). Will my right hon. Friend confirm that the inquiry will be all-embracing, because the disaster has major implications for many other major spectator sports? Also, can the inquiry be speeded up? Many of my right hon. and hon. Friends feel that the inquiry is desperately important, even allowing for the recommendations made four years ago by Mr. Justice Popplewell. If some of them had been acknowledged, perhaps we would not find ourselves where we are today. Does my right hon. Friend hold the opinion that it would be premature and foolhardy to proceed with the national membership scheme until he has an opportunity to consider all the contributory factors, both inside and outside the ground, to the Hillsborough tragedy? Those factors clearly included panic on the part of the police and of spectators. I am certain that it would be premature to proceed with the scheme until the inquiry has been concluded.

Mr. Hurd: Lord Justice Taylor's report must be speedy and thorough. In theory, there can be a contradiction between the two. However, I have made it clear to Lord Justice Taylor—and he accepts this—that he may encounter matters and issues that need to be tackled with particular urgency and upon which he may wish to make pressing recommendations. If that is the case, it will be open to him—and I have the impression that he will take this course—to submit an interim report on such matters before he has finished reaching all of his conclusions, so that they may be acted upon. Lord Justice Taylor has it in mind that, as with the Popplewell inquiry, the proceedings of his inquiry will be in public, unless there is a particular reason in any case against allowing that. That is the procedure. I do not want to pin Lord Justice Taylor down to a specific timetable before he has even visited Sheffield, which he is to do tomorrow, but I hope that my hon. Friend feels reassured.

I note what my hon. Friend said about the comments of the hon. Member for Liverpool, Walton (Mr. Heffer), and he will have noted what I said in reply. I agree to the extent that we need to set our sights high, and that, apart from other considerations, a delay would be seemly. As I have said, we shall need to look at the Bill to see how it might be strengthened to meet the extra points that I have mentioned. I do not consider that it would be right or sensible to resile from the concept of a national membership scheme or from that of designated grounds, for reasons that I have already given. If Lord Justice Taylor wishes to comment on that, nothing in his terms of reference will prevent him from doing so.

Mr. Menzies Campbell (Fife, North-East): On behalf of my right hon. and hon. Friends, let me offer my sympathy to the bereaved and injured. Let me also acknowledge the efforts of those who rendered assistance, especially the unsung acts of heroism performed by many young people.

I should like to press the Home Secretary a little on the scope of the inquiry. Will it be wide enough to enable the inquiry to consider whether lessons should have been learned from an alleged incident in 1981, in the same part of the same ground? It is said that there was severe overcrowding on that occasion, but mercifully no one was killed or injured.

The Home Secretary would receive support from both sides of the House if he took a much more robust attitude to the football membership scheme. Many of us feel that even proceeding in the way that he has outlined will inevitably pre-empt Lord Justice Taylor's report.

Mr. Hurd: On the second point, I do not think that I have anything to add to what I have already said. As for the first point, Lord Justice Taylor will of course be able to look at evidence from the past if he considers if relevant.

The hon. and learned Gentleman asked me about the kind of issues that Lord Justice Taylor will need to address. I have already mentioned the decision to open the outside gate. There is also the question of why, once in the ground, fans were propelled into the central tunnel rather than to the side entrances to the terraces, and the question why those responsible did not notice earlier what was happening on the central terrace behind the goal posts. Then there is the whole question—which we have already discussed—of the perimeter barrier and the gates within it, which were designed to serve as an emergency exit but which obviously failed to do so.

Mr. John Carlisle (Luton, North): As my right hon. Friend knows, I am one of the strongest supporters of the Football Spectators Bill, and I remain committed to the principle of membership to combat football hooliganism. Does my right hon. Friend accept, however, that in consideration of what has been said this afternoon—and, indeed, of the tragic circumstances—it would be wise to postpone any further discussion until the full results of the public inquiry are known? I hope that my right hon. Friend will then bring to the House a Bill that will receive not merely all-party support but support from outside the House, to combat the terrible problems that have been highlighted by Saturday's tragic events.

Mr. Hurd: As I have said, there will be a pause for the sake of seemliness—as the House would wish—and also for consultations on the possible strengthening of the Bill. Both purposes are, I think, important from the point of view of my hon. Friend.

I entirely agree with my hon. Friend that the events at Hillsborough ought to make us all step aside from preconceptions and look afresh at how we are to find a better way for British football. [HON. MEMBERS: "Hear, hear."] However, I think that my hon. Friend will agree, even if the Opposition do not, that an important part of that must be protection against hooliganism and violence,

[Mr. Hurd]

and that in that context a national membership scheme, or the kind that flows from the Popplewell report, has a crucial part to play.

Mr. Joseph Ashton (Ashfield): I was at the match on Saturday and saw everything that happened. If those events had taken place at a mid-week Cup tie replay on a black, dark January night, with people dashing from work in the rush hour trying to get in, it would have been twice as bad. Most of the fans had a ticket, which is a form of membership card. If the Secretary of State introduces a computer system and a membership card, all we shall need is one idiot to take a piece of chewing gum and jam it into the slot. That would put the turnstile out of action. The police would then have no option but to allow people to rush into the ground through the emergency exit. They would not then be in a position, especially on a dark night, to direct the fans to the proper entrances.

If this tragedy had happened after the Football Spectators Bill had been introduced, the Secretary of State would certainly have had to resign. Will he not wait until the report is published? In the meantime, will he not arrange for the barriers to be taken down? Will he not insist that all big matches are played live on television on Sunday afternoons so that there is less reason for people without tickets to turn up at the ground, as they did on Saturday, and fewer traffic problems? If the Secretary of State took those interim measures and introduced in the next Session of Parliament a safety of sports grounds Bill, we should certainly support him.

Mr. Hurd: The tragedy happened under the existing system, not under any future system. *[Interruption.]* No, the hon. Gentleman has not proved that point. Part of the problem on Saturday, as on other occasions, was that people turned up without tickets, as the hon. Gentleman said, in the belief, which tragically turned out to be correct, that some of them would find a way in. Under the scheme, that would not have been possible because they would or would not have a football membership card. They would not travel to the game in the expectation that they would be let in without one.

Mr. Michael Shersby (Uxbridge): Is my right hon. Friend aware that the Police Federation welcomes both the public and the police inquiry? Can he say whether the inquiry will particularly consider the question of safety of stadiums and whether it will have the power to recommend temporary closure, should that prove necessary? Can he also say whether the inquiry will further consider how supporters travel to matches, the parking arrangements and the way in which supporters approach the ground? Can he further say whether the inquiry will consider the role of the Football Association in connection with the proposed football membership scheme?

Mr. Hurd: We have deliberately cast very widely the terms of reference for Lord Justice Taylor so that he can examine all those matters that my hon. Friend has listed, I believe without straining at the terms of reference. There are many angles to this—many points of comment and criticism that have already arisen, even in the last 48 hours—and it is right that Lord Justice Taylor should be able to look at them all. The existing system of safety certificates under the 1975 Act and the responsibility of local authorities—how that works out in practice and whether it is right, as the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Sparkbrook (Mr. Hattersley) pointed out earlier, that perimeter fences should in many cases be regarded as a requirement for a safety certificate—are matters on which Lord Justice Taylor could comment.

Mr. A. E. P. Duffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe): We all grieve today, but some of us are angry. I speak not only as a Sheffield Member of Parliament but also as someone who still stands on the popular side week in, week out. Is the Home Secretary aware that in the aftermath of Heysel and Bradford I wrote to his Department and described the extensive improvements that had been put in hand at Hillsborough, costing £750,000 for crowd control and police liaison and that I invited the Minister who was then responsible for these matters to come up and see them? He did not. Will he caution those who would make whipping boys of Sheffied Wednesday and the South Yorkshire police? Will he concentrate on those who, in trying to shape our safety requirements since Heysel and Bradford, have taken us in a impractical and unreal direction?

Will he look hard at football—its structure, greed and psyche, and its contempt for ordinary working-class lads—and ask how far the football establishment is responsible for the continuing slaughter? During the past three or four years cages have been set up to contain visiting supporters at football grounds that detain them more severely than prisoners of war were detained in world war 2 Britain.

Mr. Hurd: I entirely agree with the hon. Gentleman that it is unreal and wrong, at this stage and with our present knowledge to look for, or talk about, whipping boys. I am glad that, from the Opposition Benches and from all parts of the House, that has been stated clearly. As the hon. Gentleman said, we have endured—and football supporters in particular have endured—a series of tragedies at home and abroad. We have had a tragic fire, a number of tragedies brought about by violence—Birmingham and Heysel—and now a tragedy brought about not by violence but by physical pressures because too many people were concentrated in one narrow part of the ground.

Each of those different tragedies has brought forth a series of answers, inquiries, reports and guidance designed to avert a recurrence of the most recent tragedy—the one that is on everyone's mind. We must not forget the earlier lessons as we concentrate on the new lessons. We must look at the whole picture. That includes protection against violence and hooliganism and what Popplewell said about fire. It also includes the problems that we have naturally been discussing following the Hillsborough tragedy—the problems of perimeter fences and pressure exerted on people by physical objects that can wound and crush them. Unless we are prepared to consider all these matters, we shall continue to chase partial solutions. That was the nature of my statement today.

Mr. Irvine Patnick (Sheffield, Hallam): May I join the hon. Members for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett) and Sheffield, Atterliffe (Mr. Duffy) in speaking about the tragedy that occurred in Sheffield. I pay my compliments to the emergency services on the way in which they handled themselves at the weekend and to Sheffield people who volunteered to give accommodation to those from Liverpool who were bereaved. When I visited the temporary morgue that had been set up with my hon.

friend the Minister for Sport I was appalled by the tragedy. Only when one sees the bodies laid out can one fully appreciate the extent of the tragedy that happened in Sheffield.

I ask my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary to bear in mind that it was apparent to me that there was a lack of a disaster plan for that sports ground, which is one of the major sports grounds in the United Kingdom. As the hon. Member for Attercliffe said there are few better grounds than that ground. Nevertheless, shortcomings were apparent.

I congtratulate the two radio stations, Radio Hallam and Radio Sheffield, which kept up a non-stop commentary on what help was needed for people in the area and the Sheffield *Star* on its special edition—a copy of which I gave to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister —which showed graphically the horror and mayhem.

Will my right hon. Friend examine two questions—first, the apparent lack of a disaster plan and, secondly, the part that alcohol played in the disaster?

Mr. Hurd: My hon. Friend is right to the extent that Lord Justice Taylor will have to look very carefully at the shortcomings in control and communication which seem to have been present at the crucial moments that afternoon. If the hon. Gentleman's second point becomes substantiated, it will certainly fall within Lord Justice Taylor's terms of reference.

Mr. Eddie Loyden (Liverpool, Garston): Can I say to the Home Secretary that I am probably one of the few people in the House who was at the game, if it can be called a game. I was in the Leppings lane area and I was pinned against a wall for about 20 minutes. One of my immediate observations was the inadequate policing of the Leppings lane entrance. People were coming down the road in quite large numbers and there was virtually no direction. What could have and should have happened is that the outer gates to that enclosure should have been closed to limit the number of people within it. That did not happen, and the police cannot be blamed for removing themselves from within that enclosure as the crushing became greater.

In my view the disaster had nothing to do with late arrivals. When I go to Anfield road to see a football match, I arrive at ten to three and walk through with no problem at all, because the policing there is quite adequate and the crowds are broken up by the police outside the ground.

As has been said, football supporters have been virtually disregarded because of the behaviour of a tiny minority of fans, and have been typecast as gorillas and inhuman people. That image develops in the mind of police, politicians and others the idea that everyone who goes to watch a football match falls into that category, and that influences the way that people treat football supporters. That did not happen in Sheffield, because the community around the football ground understood the situation, because their sons, daughters, fathers and brothers are probably football fans. They gave immediate sustenance and help to the football supporters. I wish to express my gratitude to the working-class people in Sheffield who did all they could to assist those who were distressed and injured and to deal with other minor matters.

I do not understand how the Home Secretary can continue to defend a scheme that, had it been in operation on that day, would have caused even greater damage, if that is possible. It is about time that the football industry, the Home Secretary, the House and society in general concentrated their minds on bringing in legislation to make football grounds safe and deal with the hooligan element. No genuine football supporter wants to tolerate that. We want those people rooted out of our sport, and they can be rooted out. But let us not categorise football spectators so that anybody and everybody will look for an excuse not to listen to them. They know about the grounds as they visit them week after week, and they know where the faults lie. I hope the Home Secretary will say that the inquiry will have full regard to those people who go to football matches and know the problems. If we listen to them and act upon what they say, the game will be brought back to what it was—a game that families can watch and enjoy without any danger to themselves or to other people.

Mr. Hurd: I hope indeed that football supporters will find their voices and mobilise their ideas and put them to Lord Justice Taylor, for the reasons that the hon. Gentleman has given. As regards the police, there was no shortage of police officers—there were upwards of 770 police officers in or around the ground. The hon. Gentleman will agree that many of them showed great heroism for an hour or more trying to extricate people, help people and restore people to consciousness and life.

Of course he is right to say that, as the chief constable has recognised, the decisions of the police and the general question of control and communication will have to be examined by Lord Justice Taylor.

Because of the passionate loyalty of so many for football—we all know of it even if we do not share it—it must be right to do everything we can to restore the game's reputation.

Several Hon. Members *rose—*

Mr. Speaker: Order. I ask for brief questions on this matter please, because a great many hon. Members wish to take part and it is difficult if long questions are asked.

Mr. Malcolm Thornton (Crosby): I am sure the House and the country sense the feeling of tragedy that every person on Merseyside feels today because of the events of Saturday when what should have been one of the great showpieces of our sporting calendar turned into such a tragedy. On behalf of my constituents and all the people of Merseyside who were helped, I thank the people of Sheffield for all they did. I am sure that I can speak for all my colleagues on Merseyside when I say that our heartfelt sympathy goes to the families of all those who were bereaved, including the family of a 17 year-old boy from Crosby who was named today as one of the dead. It is an absolute tragedy.

I welcome my right hon. Friend's statement about a wide-ranging inquiry. May I ask him to take one particular thing on board, because many lessons must be learned from the events at Hillsborough on Saturday? Will he see that part of the inquiry looks at the way in which the Football Association allocates tickets to the clubs involved in major sporting occasions? For clubs such as Liverpool, Manchester United, Everton, Arsenal and Tottenham, with huge followings, the allocation is often fearfully inadequate and exacerbates a problem which should not exist but which we all know was part and parcel of the problem causing the fatal events on Saturday.

Mr. Hurd: That point will certainly come within the review. There seems to be a general opinion—Lord Justice Taylor will test this—that there was still room at the Liverpool end of the ground. The trouble was not that the total space was overcrowded but that particular area—*[Interruption.]* Yes, as the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (Mr. Ashton) said, the distribution was wrong. That is what I was referring to when I talked of people being propelled through the central tunnel rather than directed round the sides where there was access to parts of the Liverpool terraces. The hon. Member for Bassetlaw also mentioned that people came from Liverpool without tickets in the hope of getting in. Both those facts aggravated the situation.

Mr. Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough): Yesterday afternoon at this time my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett) and myself, together with dignitaries from the three cities involved, were standing on the turf in front of where all those people were killed. Everyone stood silently; there were no photographers present. Our hearts went out from Sheffield to the people of Liverpool. The heart of Sheffield is collectively a great heart and the people of Sheffield are appalled at what happened. The last time I stood in such a way was a long time ago during the war. The sense of what had occurred was horrific to me, and I hope, to everybody. We all have our opinions about what went wrong. I know the ground intimately, the exact spot and all the details but I do not want to apportion blame now. When the inquiry takes place we should all realise that it is the most important inquiry in the history of football in this country and what it decides will decide the future of football. Football is a dynamic not a static sport. It will not stand still and will never go away—thank heaven—but we want to make the proper decisions. Therefore, I want voices that say "Do it rapidly" to be listened to with much care. I do not want skimping. The decisions that we take must be long-term decisions. Every aspect must be considered, otherwise this will occur again and we shall once again need to have another melancholy inquiry into what went wrong. I want an assurance from the Secretary of State that we shall have such an inquiry and that it will not be rushed in any way whatever.

Mr. Hurd: I agree with everything that the hon. Gentleman said. I should like to mention the generosity of the people of Sheffield, which has been evident. I have heard many stories of offers of help, accommodation and transport to complete strangers from his constituents and other citizens of Sheffield.

I repeat, without wishing to be tedious, what seems to be the crux of the matter. We have had a series of disasters and tragedies arising from different causes and circumstances. We must not simply ignore the earlier lessons and concentrate on the latest ones. The latest one is terrible and perhaps more appalling than the others because of its nature. It therefore needs to be thoroughly and urgently investigated, and the totals must be added together to find a new way for British football. The hon. Gentleman rightly said that the inquiry must be dynamic. There must be no resting on ancient attitudes as the right foundation for the future of the game.

Mr. Kenneth Hind (Lancashire, West): I am sure that the House will join me in sending condolences to the families of Colin Sefton and David Rimmer, constituents of mine, who died, and Robert Graham, who is fighting for his life in intensive care. May I express, on behalf of the people of Skelmersdale and Ormskirk, who are ardent Liverpool supporters, our appreciation of the Sheffield services, which acted so quickly?

I support my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on the introduction of all-seated grounds, which I have advocated for some time and regard as a solution. Will he return to the Bradford City fire report by Mr. Justice Popplewell, in which he will find among the 63 recommendations one that says that it is essential to have exit gates in perimeter fencing that keeps in the crowd to give an exit on to the field should there be disturbances? Will he reconsider that and bear in mind that such gates do not exist at 16 first division grounds, including Manchester United's ground, Old Trafford, where it is proposed to hold the rematch of this game in the next week or two?

Mr. Hurd: One point on which we can all agree is the absolute necessity of emergency exits through perimeter fences. As my hon. Friend said, that is contained in the Popplewell report and is clearly spelled out, with specifications about the widths of gates, in paragraph 215 of the Home Office guide to safety at sports grounds. Anyone will agree that if the guidance is implemented it is adequate. There must be an investigation in to why the exit gate was not an effective way in which desperate people could get on to the pitch.

Mr. David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill): In the face of this terrible and wholly avoidable tragedy—many of the fatalities were young children, including a 13-year-old boy from my constituency—expressions of condolences and sympathy seem inadequate to sum up the enormity of it for a city that is mourning its dead and is united in its grief.

A time will come when grief will give way to anger and questions will have to be answered. I should like an assurance from the Home Secretary that it will be made clear why the gate was opened and who took that decision. Why were emergency arrangements so pitifully inadequate? I welcome what the right hon. Gentleman said about the provision of seats in our national stadiums, but will he take urgent action to ensure that those terrible metal cages are put on the scrap heap and people are treated like human beings instead of animals?

On 22 March, I wrote to the Minister about the ticket allocation for Saturday's match. I enclosed a statement from Mr. Peter Robinson, the chief executive of Liverpool football ground, who said:

> "I made it plain that there was no way I could support the choice of Hillsborough this year with the same ticket allocations applying."

When I received a reply dated 11 April from the Minister of Sport, he said that the mater was entirely for the football authorities. In the light of what has happened, will the Home Secretary accept that the Minister should take an interest in this matter? Will he confirm that which the Minister said, that the allocations were made on the basis of police advice? I ask that because there have been conflicting statements in the past 24 hours.

Liverpool is a city schooled in adversity. However, not since the blitz has it had to face a tragedy on such a shocking scale. I am sure that the House today will wish to express its solidarity with those who grieve and those awaiting news of loved ones, whose lives still lie in the balance.

Mr. Hurd: All the points raised by the hon. Gentleman are clearly covered by the terms of reference of the inquiry, and Lord Justice Taylor will be able to look into them. I am slightly surprised that he suggests that Ministers should become involved in deciding, match by match, how tickets should be allocated. He is perfectly right in his understanding—these are matters for the football authorities. They consult on them and are guided by the police. I shall repeat my earlier point that, although the matter of total allocation will certainly be looked into, it was not the total allocation, so much as the concentration of that allocation in a part of the Liverpool terrace, which resulted in the terrible damage.

Mr. Jim Lester (Broxtowe): May I, as a regular supporter of the Nottingham Forest team, speak on behalf of all its fans and the people of Nottinghamshire, and associate myself with the remarks of the hon. Member for Liverpool, Walton (Mr. Heffer). It was a most tragic accident and, as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said, no words uttered in this place will fill the gaps in those families who have lost young people who went out on a happy day which ended in tragedy.

We should recollect that more factors unite football fans than divide them. That was clearly shown at the Hillsborough ground when the Nottingham Forest supporters—as soon as they realised that a tragedy was taking place—behaved in an exemplary fashion and helped in every way. The majority of people who follow football are united in the game's interests. The Home Secretary has an opportunity to utilise that good will on all sides. There is no shortage of suggestions or ideas. I beg him not to rush ahead too far but to think carefully before he proceeds in any direction. He should take all the advice given from all those of good will who want the future of football—this country's national game—to continue in a proper and rightful way.

Mr. Hurd: I agree with my hon. Friend that the right sequence of action is thought, consultation, thought, action.

Mr. Terry Fields (Liverpool, Broadgreen): Like thousands of Liverpool families on Saturday, my wife and I waited tearfully and anxiously because we had two sons and a nephew in that part of the ground where the disaster happened. My relief on discovering that my family was all right was tinged with the realisation that thousands of other Liverpool families would never see their kids come home as a result of the terrible tragedy. After the Heysel tragedy we were assured that the Prime Minister would leave no stone unturned in discovering who was responsible. I want an assurance today from the Home Secretary that, similarly, no stone will be left unturned when this incident is investigated.

Others have said that they are not looking for scapegoats, but the anger that permeates Liverpool today reflects the tragedy that occurred in Georgia in the USSR, after which the top tier of the country's leadership was forced to resign. We need assurances because we do not want a whitewash. The fans are paramount in this incident, and must be consulted when the in-depth inquiry takes place—no matter how long it takes for their point of view and experiences to be put across. If they were decent honest and honourable, the responsible Minister, chief of police and FA officials would resign.

How long are we going to carry on treating fans like cattle? Their treatment contrasts with the champagne swilling that goes on in the plush directors' boxes. The views and conditions of the fans must be taken into account. If we lock people up we create a certain mentality, and it is little wonder that they react in these circumstances.

Mr. Hurd: Nothing that we heard yesterday at the ground or in the hospitals bore out the sort of rhetoric that the hon. Gentleman has sought to employ. It is precisely because of the incredible nature of the tragedy that we have moved quickly to set up what even the hon. Gentleman would agree is a fully independent inquiry with what even he would agree are wide and complete terms of reference. The proceedings will be conducted in public, unless there is a special reason for not doing so. It will be open to everyone to make their views and recommendations known. That is the proper way to proceed and then to reach conclusions afterwards—instead of gabbling with malice, as the hon. Gentleman has done today.

Sir Fergus Montgomery (Altrincham and Sale): I ask my right hon. Friend to think again about putting the Football Spectators Bill on ice. Is he aware that many of the police are concerned that if the Bill is enacted and crowds build up outside stadiums the same sort of thing could happen again as happened on Saturday? Would it not be better to wait for the results of a full inquiry and then to bring forward a Bill that is acceptable to everyone concerned with football?

Secondly, was my right hon. Friend, like me, nauseated by some of the pictures in some of the tabloids, which must have caused enormous distress to some of the bereaved families? Would it not have been better if they had never been published?

Mr. Hurd: On the first point, perhaps I can add something to what I have already said. I remind the House, which has not yet considered the Bill, that it is an enabling framework and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment has already given a full commitment not to implement the scheme within that framework until the necessary technology has been satisfactorily worked out. My hon. Friend will agree that the point about terraces that I emphasised at the beginning is also relevant.

I note what my hon. Friend said about newspaper photographs, and I also note that the new chairman of the Press Council has said today that the Press Council should inquire into that matter.

Mr. Robert N. Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby): I was at the other semi-final on Saturday at which the other Merseyside team, Everton, was successful, but there was no real rejoicing. When we came out of the ground and learnt of the problems at Hillsborough, we were all united in grief with all football fans on Merseyside.

Will the Home Secretary use his influence to get football clubs to be more flexible about kick-off times? One of the reasons why crowds try to crush through turnstiles quickly into the central areas of grounds is that they hear the roar from inside the ground when the teams run on to the pitch and play starts. Matches in Germany are often held up for half an hour to ensure the safety of the spectators, which should come first.

When, oh when, will the Government escape from the "We never make mistakes" syndrome? When will they

[Mr. Robert N. Wareing]

learn from their Back Benchers, not one of whom has supported them this afternoon, and withdraw part I of the Football Spectators Bill and start from scratch?

Will the Home Secretary ensure that the inquiry examines the location of football grounds? I know that there can be improvement—by relocating grounds when necessary—only in the long term, but too many of our grounds are in built up urban areas. Because of the war, Germany and Holland have been able to build grounds in open space areas in which there are far more facilities for controlling crowds. Will the right hon. Gentleman look into that?

Several Hon. Members *rose*——

Mr. Speaker: Order. I ask for brief questions; long questions are unfair to other hon. Members.

Mr. Hurd: I shall try to be succinct. I have much personal sympathy for the hon. Gentleman's point about flexibility and timing of the start of matches. I am sure that that will be looked into. I have nothing further to say on the other matter.

Mr. Churchill (Davyhulme): May I on behalf of my constituents and supporters of Manchester United join in the expressions of sympathy to the families of the bereaved? Will my right hon. Friend have urgent consultations with the football authorities to ensure that in future special coaches and trains for away matches do not leave their points of origin unless everybody on board is already armed with a ticket? That would avoid thousands of fans, many of them without tickets, arriving simultaneously five or 10 minutes before the start of a match.

Mr. Hurd: That is an interesting suggestion and I shall make sure that the inquiry takes it into account.

Mr. Robert Parry (Liverpool, Riverside): I should like to be associated with the condolences and the messages of sympathy to the bereaved families. I pay tribute to the Liverpool supporters and the Evertonians for their tribute to Liverpool yesterday at Anfield and at Liverpool metropolitan cathedral. I was present at both of those ceremonies and they were very moving. My brother's son lost three friends on Saturday, all of whom were in their twenties. That was a tragic loss of life. I welcome the public inquiry and hope that there will be no cover-ups. Such a tragedy must never happen again, although any preventive measures are too late for all those people who are now dead.

Mr. Hurd: I agree with the hon. Gentleman and with the way in which he expressed himself.

Mr. Robert G. Hughes (Harrow, West): My constituents are shocked that even the London suburbs should now be associated with this terrible tragedy. Sarah and Victoria Hicks, two teenage girls attending the match with their family, now lie dead. Does my right hon. Friend agree that in the shadow of this tragedy it would be easy to jump to conclusions and adopt what might be fashionable solutions? Will he give us an assurance that the widest possible brief will be followed by the inquiry to ensure that we can genuinely call our sports grounds safe? Will he ensure that all recommendations by the inquiry are legislated into action?

Mr. Hurd: Certainly, as my hon. Friend will have seen, the terms of reference are very wide. When we receive the report—whether it is an interim and then a final or a single report—we will need to act quickly.

Several Hon. Members *rose*——

Mr. Speaker: Order. The whole House knows that we have a heavy day ahead of us. I shall call those Members whose constituents have been most severely affected, the Liverpool Members, and then we must move on.

Mr. Frank Field (Birkenhead): May I, too, associate myself with the statements made to the families who lost people on Saturday? I find it impossible to express the despair that I feel and that suggests something of the utter desolation that those families must be experiencing at this time. While none of those families will today be thinking about compensation, does the Home Secretary think that we have a duty to them? Am I right in saying that some families who lost members on Saturday will receive no automatic compensation payments? Is that right or fair? If it is not fair will the Government change the law?

Mr. Hurd: I think that the hon. Gentleman is right in saying that there is no automatic compensation. Of course I have read about the possibilities of civil action and I have also read and spoken about the fund that has been set up. I should like to look further into the matter.

Mr. Sean Hughes (Knowsley, South): I represent half the borough that is today mourning the deaths of 12 young people, including the infinitely tragic death of a 10-year-old child from my constituency. As an Everton season ticket holder, I was at the other semi-final. As a football supporter I share the disappointment of many people at the Home Secretary's reply about the ID scheme which demonstrates a woeful ignorance of the nature of the football fan. Increasingly in the greatest spectator sport in Britain the least important person is the spectator. We feel very deeply that the Government and the Football Association do not demonstrate an awareness of that fact.

Finally, in addition to the disappointment that has been caused by what we have heard about the ID scheme, there will be disappointment about the Home Secretary's response to questions concerning the allocation of tickets. I remain absolutely convinced that the allocation of tickets for big games, such as semi-finals and finals, is crucial. Going to a football match is not like going to the theatre; it is a way of life for an enormous number of people. Those people will be acutely disappointed by what has been said about the allocation of tickets. The fans who turn up without tickets, and those who pay exorbitant amounts to ticket touts, are not the ones who are intent on hooliganism; they are the ones who have been going, match in, match out, throughout the season, but cannot get tickets for the big games. Therefore, the Football Association too must be thoroughly investigated.

Mr. Hurd: I agree entirely that the allocation of tickets —working out the totals between the two clubs—is extremely important. What I was arguing against was the argument of the hon. Member for Liverpool, Mossley Hill (Mr. Alton), that this is a matter that Ministers should decide.

Mr. George Howarth (Knowsley, North): I should like to associate myself with the sympathy that has been expressed. At the invitation of the Merseyside fire and civil defence authority, I visited Sheffield yesterday. I was very touched indeed by the response of some Nottingham Forest supporters, who had organised a collection in their pub the previous evening and had come to the ground to present more than £100 towards the appeal fund. It was very helpful of my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn) to make arrangements so that those of us who came over were able to find our way around and could go to the appropriate places.

Having spoken to several people who came over to Sheffield yesterday to find out what had happened to their relatives, I think it is clear that the emergency telephone system simply did not work satisfactorily on Saturday. I spoke to one woman who had tried for eight hours to find out what had happened to her son, but had been unable to get through. I understand from the fire and civil defence authority that an exercise was conducted recently—using the Bristol exchange—aimed at dealing with precisely such problems, and that that exercise was relatively successful. On this occasion, the provision of far more lines would have enabled the emergency telephone number to work more effectively. I understand that that system was used for the flotation of the British Gas shares. If it was good enough for the flotation of the British Gas shares, it would have been good enough as an emergency system.

Mr. Hurd: As the hon. Member has indicated, there certainly was a problem of swamped lines, at there often is on these occasions. I understand absolutely the distress, anxiety, and worse, caused by that, but I think that it is rather apart from the terms of reference of the inquiry. Perhaps I may look into the point that the hon. Gentleman has raised and then get in touch with him.

Mr. John Evans (St. Helens, North): In view of the fact that fans from St. Helens died at Hillsborough on Saturday, I want to associate myself with the condolences that have been expressed.

Can the Home Secretary confirm that the trouble started outside the ground because of the late arrival of fans and the inability of the turnstiles to cope with them? Will he ask Lord Justice Taylor to look into the traffic arrangements for visiting fans, bearing in mind the abysmal signposting and the sometimes rather odd decisions of traffic police when they are directing fans towards the ground?

Secondly, can the Home Secretary inform us that the South Yorkshire police will reply directly to the inquiry, and will not allow the West Midlands police to answer on their behalf?

Mr. Hurd: The question of traffic and signposting is certainly within the terms of reference of the inquiry, and I shall make sure that it is noted.

On the second point, as I explained earlier, the chief constable believes—and I think that he is quite right—that since the actions of some of his officers are obviously a matter for the investigation, it is right, for the credibility of the exercise, that the police preparing the information for Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry, let alone for eventual inquests, should not belong to the same force. Therefore, the chief constable looked for, and found, another force and another chief constable with a high reputation and with experience in these matters to do that job on their behalf. I think that that is the right course.

Mr. Gerald Bermingham (St. Helens, South): As somebody who has constituents who are now dead, or are relatives of those who are dead as result of this tragedy, and as someone who lived in Sheffield for 25 years, I have a dual interest in this matter. Will the Home Secretary take one urgent step, which I hope is non-controversial? Will he arrange that all the film coverage and the pictures that were taken on Saturday both by ITN and the BBC and by amateurs be made available to the inquiry? Unless we move quickly, that footage may be lost and it contains evidence that may be of great value to the inquiry, because it will enable the inquiry to see the pressures both inside and outside the ground, and allow it to draw some valuable conclusions.

Mr. Hurd: I know that there are sometimes difficulties about this material, but that is a valuable suggestion, and I shall pursue it.

Several Hon. Members *rose*——

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will now call two Back-Bench Members from each side, and then we must move on.

Sir Anthony Grant (Cambridgeshire, South-West): I shall not comment on the Hillsborough ground itself, but my right hon. Friend will be aware that in many grounds, the facilities are deplorable. Will he have discussions with his colleagues in the Treasury to see whether the tax system can be adapted so that there is an incentive to invest in improved stadiums, and a disincentive to spend ludicrous sums on transfer fees? I do not expect my right hon. Friend to make any decision about the Football Spectators Bill this afternoon, but will he say that the Government will reflect on the views that have been expressed in the House this afternoon?

Mr. Hurd: I have noted those views on the Bill. I believe that the Bill, which addresses a different problem from the one that caused the tragedy at Hillsborough, is soundly based. There will be a pause, as I have said, and there is a case for adding to the Bill and strengthening it. However, the improvement that we are seeking for football cannot be total without a provision along the lines of a national membership scheme. On the first matter, my hon. Friend is touching on a point that is sensitive in the football industry, but he is right to say that those in it must examine carefully the priorities for spending their not inconsiderable resources.

Mr. Richard Caborn (Sheffield, Central): I associate myself with all the remarks made by my Sheffield colleagues on the Opposition Benches. I was at the ground, with my hon. Friend the Member for Knowsley, North (Mr. Howarth). I ask the Home Secretary to take action on perimeter fencing. Yesterday, I spoke to some experienced engineers, one of whom said that this was an accident waiting to happen. I call on the Home Secretary to ensure that no major games are played with fans kept behind perimeter fencing.

Today, the media have been singled out, and the local radio stations in Sheffield, both Radio Hallam and Radio Sheffield, played a major part in helping to co-ordinate the magnificent efforts made by the Sheffield people in, for example, blood donation and other services, and the

[Mr. Richard Caborn]

arrangements between the Liverpool and Sheffield families. When the Home Secretary looks at the White Paper on broadcasting and particularly at that part dealing with local radio, I ask him to bear that effort in mind. Local radio showed what magnificent assistance it can give in a tragedy.

My main point to the Home Secretary is that he should consider carefully the removal of those fences. I think he will find that all the major engineers were saying that that was an accident waiting to happen.

Mr. Hurd: I agree with the hon. Gentleman about local radio. The perimeter fences are not there by accident. They are there because local authorities, to issue safety certificates, have often required them as a form of protection against violence.

Mr. Hattersley: No, against hooliganism.

Mr. Hurd: The danger of violence has not gone away. What is required is a way to reconcile the need to protect spectators against violence with the need for people to be able to get out on to the pitch, or to get back in the case of emergency. That is tackled in the Home Office guidance, but it did not work successfully at Hillsborough. That is the nature of the problem that the inquiry will have to tackle.

Mr. David Evans (Welwyn, Hatfield): Is not the Football Spectators Bill about separating the hooligans from the football fans? It is an enabling Bill and the FMA and football itself will put forward a scheme for the Secretary of State to approve.

Are there any plans to introduce legislation to remove the control of football from the Football Association and the Football League, which have consistently been incompetent and, some would say, bloody-minded in their attitude to football spectators? Can my right hon. Friend assure us that football families will be able to go to football grounds in safety and be safe within those grounds?

Mr. Hurd: On the second point, there is evidence of thinking ahead, which I welcome. I notice that Mr. Graham Kelly said on the television that he supports the move towards all-seated matches in important stadiums, and I notice that the hon. Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (Mr. Pendry), with his experience, agrees. It is partly because of the evidence of fresh thinking among the football authorities that we have given that suggestion the impetus that I have announced today.

Mr. Merlyn Rees (Morley and Leeds, South): At the end of these questions, I ask the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister to reflect on the view, which has come from both sides of the House, that, in the light of Saturday—we all saw it on our televisions and have read the newspapers and the views of interested parties—the Government should withdraw the Football Supporters Bill? They would not be losing political face, in the light of the feelings that have been expressed. The Taylor report will look at these matters afresh—those are the words of the Home Secretary. The police inquiry, under the chief constable of the West Midlands force, is a statutory inquiry. It will be looking, legalistically but carefully, at the role of the police. Why not wait until those reports are out and ome back with a new Bill? I am sceptical about the identity card scheme, and I say that from experien because I live alongside the Leeds United football ground. However, if the reports are in favour of identity cards, I would be prepared to change my mind. Therefore, the Bill should be abandoned until the reports are in.

Mr. Hurd: I have listened to the right hon. Gentleman and to others who have said this. The comments would be just if this tragedy had occurred under the new regime. *[Interruption.]* The right hon. Gentleman knows the origins of this proposal. He knows the recommendation in the final Popplewell report and the nature of the scheme. He knows, as I have said and as my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn, Hatfield (Mr. Evans) has just confirmed, that the Bill sets up an enabling framework. He knows that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment has already committed himself not to implement the membership scheme, which is the core of part I, within the enabling framework, until satisfactory arrangements have been worked out. He knows what is in the Bill about the making of those arrangements. The right hon. Gentleman is accustomed to seeing things in the round and do not believe that he would argue that, because there was no violence at Hillsborough, which I concede, we can forget the lessons of earlier disasters where there was violence, and which were examined by Mr. Justice Popplewell.

Mr. Denis Howell (Birmingham, Small Heath): On behalf of all those who were present on Saturday to face first the trauma and then the grief of what happened, I ask the Home Secretary firmly to repudiate the provocative, inaccurate and disgraceful statements made by representatives of UEFA and FIFA. In particular, Mr. Jacques George said:

"This region seems to have a particularly aggressive mentality."

He drew comparisons with Heysel, and said that the fans were "sewage". Sepp Blatter of FIFA said:

"Will the fans never learn?"

Will the Home Secretary support us, and I speak with the authority of the Football Association and the Football League, in totally rejecting that suggestion that the Liverpool supporters and fans were in any way responsible for this tragedy? The Home Secretary would carry us all with him if he did so.

The right hon. Gentleman is right to realise that there is a difference between crowd behaviour control and crowd safety. As one who was there on Saturday, I know that there was no crisis management there. There was no apparent relationship between the fears of those outside the ground and the danger to those inside the ground. There was no appreciation or understanding expressed about conditions and delays on motorways and of the effect that they would have on late arrival at the ground. There was no proper crowd control and no arrangements were apparent inside the ground for dealing with the disaster and with the mass of injuries and deaths which had to be dealt with. It was not apparent that any member of the police force—I do not say this critically—understood that the first priority was to get the fences down and to get the 10,000 spectators on to the field, that being the only possible place to which they could be evacuated.

I turn to the controversial aspect of the Home Secretary's statement. Lord Justice Taylor's appointment to conduct the inquiry is a commendable choice and I fully

pport it. Is he to proceed with his inquiry on the assumption that the Football Spectators Bill will be enacted? It will have a profound effect upon his thinking, and that is one of the reasons why the Bill should be withdrawn.

Many of us are distressed by the adversarial philosophy that the Government practise on sport as in other matters. They never trust the Supporters' Associations, and the Minister has not even suggested that the association be appointed a member of the Football Membership authority. It is my experience, having dealt with the association in recent months, that there is enormous collective wisdom and good will to be harnessed, especially from football supporters and their associations' representatives. Will the Minister please take counsel from them? Will he listen to what they say, as should the police and the football authorities? The goodwill has to be tapped.

I say to the Home Secretary as gently as I can, but I am afraid harshly, that the decision to continue with the Football Spectators Bill in all these circumstances is a profound mistake. It is appalling arrogance for the Government to think that they know better than anyone else. The Government never consult the Opposition on these matters. They never consult football generally about these matters. As far as I can see—*[Interruption.]* It is true. The Minister for Sport may get upset, but three times I have offered from the Opposition Dispatch Box to formulate a policy that would, in effect, cross the House. I have never been invited to meet the Minister to discuss these matters. This is disgraceful and it is time that this lack of discussion came to an end.

I hope that the Home Secretary will reflect on what he has said today. He keeps telling us that the Government will proceed with the scheme because of previous violence, but there has been no substantial violence within football grounds for three years.

I am grateful to the Prime Minister for remaining in her place throughout the exchanges to listen to what everyone has to say, but I say to her and to the Home Secretary that anyone who was present on Saturday, as I was, will know that advocates of a membership scheme that requires harassed gatekeepers, in addition to their great traumas and problems, to inspect cards, possibly to look at photographs, and then to put the cards into a machine, are saying, in effect, that they wanted the disaster to be aggravated. That is the essence of the problem.

I ask the Home Secretary to try to achieve a consensus within football generally and within the House so that we can all agree to get through this place a Bill to deal with football troubles, whether they be behavioural or are related to ground safety. If we are all convinced about the merits of such a Bill, we shall be happy to support it and to secure its passage in record time. I ask the Home Secretary to take on board the collective view of everyone in the country, except the members of Her Majesty's Government, that the Football Spectators Bill should be withdrawn in the interest of public safety.

Mr. Hurd: I have not read the generalisations which the right hon. Gentleman quoted at the beginning of his intervention. If they are as he stated, they are certainly wholly unjustified by what occurred at Hillsborough. I am grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for getting in touch with me on Saturday night. He is correct in saying that the problems of control and communications, some of which he listed, are central to the inquiry.

I am sorry that the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Small Heath (Mr. Howell) concluded the exchanges by using what happened at Hillsborough as a stick to beat the Football Spectators Bill—*[Interruption.]* That is what he did. He is straining and upsetting history to argue that the approach of my right hon. Friends has been arrogant or adversarial. I have been present at several meetings at which my right hon. Friends and my hon. Friend the Minister for Sport have been straining nerves to try to carry football with them. They have done this year after year. What is the date of the Popplewell report? The answer is 1986. The effort which has been made by my right hon. Friends to build support and to carry the football authorities with them has been prolonged and conscientious. It is only because that effort did not yield a voluntary scheme on the lines which Mr. Justice Popplewell recommended that the Bill has been drafted.

I repeat that the Bill is an enabling measure. It has been worked out by my right hon. Friend's working party. The assurances that have been given about implementation are crucial to it. It is in the interests of football supporters —the right hon. Member for Small Heath rightly stressed their importance and their commitment—that there should not remain the gap in protection that the Bill is designed to fill.

Mr. Nigel Spearing (Newham, South): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, arising from the statement. The terms of reference of Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry are clearly wide and the timing of the report is indeterminate. It surely follows that the conclusions of such an inquiry could be contrary to the views of House that are taken in pursuit of legislation of which we have just heard. Will you confirm, Mr. Speaker, that in this instance the sub judice rule does not apply? Would not that be the view of most persons with legal training?

Mr. Speaker: I can confirm what the hon. Gentleman says. The sub judice rule does not apply to legislation.

Mr. Allen McKay (Barnsley, West and Penistone): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Given the importance of the inquiry to our greatest spectator sport and to thousands of our constituents, can you assure us that the report will be debated before any recommendations or observations are acted upon?

Mr. Speaker: That is not a matter for me but I am sure that the hon. Gentleman's words have been heard by those who are responsible.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DOCUMENTS

Ordered,

That European Community Document No. 4092/1/89 on pesticide residues be referred to a Standing Committee on European Community Documents.—[*Mr. Maclean.*]

Orders of the Day

Dock Work Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

Mrs. Alice Mahon (Halifax): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Before we debate a highly controversial Bill, may I seek your advice on an issue that raises serious public concern? You will be aware of recent reports about hon. Members having interests outside the House and receiving rather large sums in remuneration for them. Is it acceptable for hon. Members who represent business interests in the docks and who are remunerated for representing those interests to debate the Bill or to vote upon it? Will you give me a clear ruling on that.

Mr. Speaker: That question was asked of me last week. I do not know whether the hon. Lady was present. I confirm that it has always been in order for hon. Members both to speak and to cast their votes on matters of public policy.

Given the late start of the Bill, I propose to limit Back-Bench speeches to 10 minutes between 7 o'clock and 9 o'clock. I ask those on the Front Benches and those who may be called before 7 o'clock to bear in mind that constraint.

5.9 pm

The Secretary of State for Employment (Mr. Norman Fowler): I beg to move, That the Bill be read a Second time.

Before I begin my remarks, on the Bill, I associate myself with the words of sympathy from both sides of the House on the preceding statement.

There are a number of ways of stating the case for this Bill. It is possible to set out the glaring but inevitable anomalies in a dock labour scheme which dates back to legislation passed just after the end of the second world war and which was designed to meet the needs of the ports industry in the 1930s and 1940s. It is possible to establish the cost of the scheme which has led to a bill of almost £1 billion for the taxpayer and the ports industry put together, plus the extra costs which the customers of the scheme ports have had to bear. It is possible to describe some of the restrictive practices which have grown up and which have made the ports covered by the dock labour scheme less competitive than they should be.

Those are all strong arguments and the House should consider them all. They all add to the overwhelming case for the abolition of the scheme, but I believe there is one factor which precedes all that. It is that the abolition of the scheme will ensure a better future for the ports industry in this country and will provide a better future for those working in the industry. What is more, abolition will provide a better future for the areas—often inner-city areas—around the ports themselves.

The fact is that for all its restrictions the scheme has provided no security in the docks. Jobs have gone; companies have gone bankrupt; new recruitment of young men has been limited and sometimes non-existent; and long lines of workers have volunteered to leave the industry altogether.

Clearly some of that change—some of that contraction—has been inevitable. Modern technology has meant that fewer dockers have been required. Nevertheless, scheme ports have lost both jobs and trade. Twenty years ago, there were 45,000 registered dock workers. Today there are 9,400. Twenty years ago, scheme ports handled over 90 per cent. of our nation's trade. Today they handle something like 70 per cent.

Mr. Roy Hughes (Newport, East): In view of the information that the Secretary of State has just given to the House, is it not misleading for Government supporters to go round the country talking about "jobs for life"?

Mr. Fowler: The point about the so-called "jobs for life" is that in no other industry are workers guaranteed a job irrespective of whether there is work to do.

The scheme has created surpluses, and those surpluses have threatened the viability of the ports. The only way to reduce those surpluses has been through voluntary redundancy, which has been massively financed by the taxpayer because the industry could not afford it. That is the essential case and it is a strong and unanswerable case.

It is instructive to compare what has happened in the non-scheme ports. In the main, the reason why those ports are not in the scheme at all is that they were of no consequence for cargo handling in 1947 when the scheme was drawn up. Felixstowe, for example, was, just a wharf. Yet the ports outside the scheme now account for 30 per cent. of our trade in volume and half our trade in value. In addition, their employment of dock workers, has risen to nearly 4,000: nearly one in three of all dockers; and Felixstowe is today one of our leading ports.

Non-scheme ports have gained trade year by year—and with the trade has come investment. In his response to my statement, the hon. Member for Oldham, West (Mr. Meacher) made much of the investment at four scheme ports—Tilbury, Bristol, Hull and Newport. Put together it is less than the £54 million committed to investment for 1989 at Felixstowe for the expansion of its container facilities.

Over the past six years, Felixstowe has invested £92 million and Dover has invested almost £85 million. No scheme ports have come near that figure. It is that kind of investment that best ensures competitive ports and preserves jobs.

Mr. Robert Hughes (Aberdeen, North): Even if one accepts what the Secretary of State has said, will he explain why the Bill came as a bolt out of the blue and without any prior knowledge, making it, under this leaky Government, the only piece of legislation that has been kept totally secret until it was sprung across the House of Commons? Would it not have been much better if the Government had proceeded to try to get discussions and agreement between the port employers and the unions? Why has the Secretary of State precipitately decided to bring the Bill forward in this way, instead of taking the path of conciliation and discussion?

Mr. Fowler: I do not think that "precipitately" is exactly the right description for what the Government have done. There has been an evolving consensus about the need to abolish the scheme and to bring forward the legislation. There is no question—there has been no secret—about the review of the barriers to employment that the Government have carried out. I shall come to those points later.

Mr. Graham Allen (Nottingham, North) *rose*——

TEL: 01-930 4488
TELEGR: OPPOSITELY LONDON WC2
TELEX: 8952626 G

Verw:
Ref:

SUID-AFRIKAANSE AMBASSADE
SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY
TRAFALGAR SQUARE
LONDON
WC2N 5DP

17 April 1989

Mr Charles Powell
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AL

Dear Mr Powell

Please find attached, for onward transmission to the Prime Minister, a letter from Mr P W Botha, State President.

Your assistance in bringing it to the Prime Minister's attention, will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Henri S Raubenheimer
COUNSELLOR

CONFIDENTIAL

EL3DMG

file

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 April 1989

Dear Philip

HILLSBOROUGH GROUND DISASTER

The Prime Minister held a meeting with Ministerial colleagues this morning to discuss the Government's response to the disaster at Hillsborough ground on 15 April. Present were the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Lord President, the Chief Whip and the Minister for Sport.

I should be grateful if recipients of this letter would restrict circulation to those officials with a strict operational need to know.

The Home Secretary said that in the atmosphere of general shock and sorrow after the disaster there was, temporarily, a time when attitudes would be more flexible and the possibilities of securing support from other political parties and the footballing authorities for new steps might be greater than for some time past. The first element in a new initiative would need to be the move away from terraces in games. There needed to be better leadership in the football world. It was also for consideration whether there were implications for the Football Spectators Bill. One possible way forward would be to hold a meeting of the Football Association and League and set a programme, working with Government and money from the Football Trust to carry through the abolition of terraces. The Football Spectators Bill should carry on but it should be made clear that implementation would follow, and take account of, Lord Justice Taylor's recommendations. In discussion the following points were made:

- It was important that Lord Justice Taylor should have the broadest terms of reference to enable him to consider the circumstances of the disaster, enquire into the events at Sheffield and to draw such conclusions as he saw fit. Lord Justice Taylor would however need to be asked to produce his report briskly.

- The argument would be advanced that Part I of the Football Spectators Bill might pre-judge the conclusions of Lord Justice Taylor's Inquiry. These arguments were misguided since Part I flowed from the

recommendations, in Justice Popplewell's earlier report, for a membership scheme. Others who were already opposed to the Bill would seek to make capital out of the Hillsborough disaster by asserting that the disaster had been caused by crowd problems outside the ground and that there was the risk that a National Membership Scheme might make things worse. There would be the desire, from some Government supporters for a delay in the passage of the Bill until Lord Justice Taylor had reported, or at least had been prepared to offer a view, on the public safety aspects of the membership scheme. Against that, the Hillsborough disaster had taken place under existing arrangements; it would be unfair to ask Lord Justice Taylor to give an off the cuff reaction - he would want quite reasonably to take all the evidence before coming to his own conclusions. A delay of that length would jeopardise both Part I of the Bill and Part II, which appeared to command all-party support but which it would be impractical to separate at the current stage of the Bill's passage.

- There was in any case no need to defer the Bill on account of the Inquiry. Any recommendations on the Membership Scheme could be taken fully into account because the Bill contained an "Appointed Day" Clause. It was therefore open to the Government to press ahead and pass the Bill but not to implement the provisions which the enabling powers gave until Lord Justice Taylor's recommendations had been made and digested. It should still be possible on this basis to stick to the target of implementation of the Bill's provisions from Spring 1990.

- It might however be unseemly to press ahead with Third Reading in the Lords of a contentious Bill on football at a time when grief and passions aroused by the Hillsborough disaster ran so high. There was a strong case for deferring, for a week or two, the Third Reading debate.

- In view of the very strong arguments from all quarters about the self-evident dangers of football terraces there was a very strong case for going ahead now, ahead of Lord Justice Taylor's report, with moves to secure their abolition in major grounds.

Summing up the meeting the Prime Minister said that Ministers were agreed that the Home Secretary's statement to the House should make clear that the Government remained firmly of the view that the future of football remained with an all-membership scheme at designated grounds. It should also make clear that, in the light of Hillsborough, it now seemed necessary to move to an all-seat game within the major grounds. The Government would need to hold up further consideration of the Bill briefly while it considered how the Bill might be strengthened to that end or whether some other route, such as a Motion by both Houses, would be the best means of signalling Parliament's determination to see

the abolition of terraces at major grounds. The Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for the Environment were invited to examine urgently with legal advisers the appropriate route for licensing powers to deal with terraces. It was also right that Third Reading in the Lords should be deferred for a week or two while the nation marked its shared concern at the Hillsborough disaster.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bright (Department of the Environment), Steven Catling (Lord President's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), Philip Stamp (Office of the Minister for Sport), Nick Gibbons (Lord Privy Seal's Office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Dominic

(DOMINIC MORRIS)

Philip Mawer, Esq.,
Home Office.

MR. TURNBULL

The Prime Minister was concerned at the length of time it took for her to be put fully in the picture on Saturday afternoon and the Government's response to the Hillsborough disaster. We agreed it would be useful if I set it out chronologically with any lessons which occurred to me.

The Duty Clerk telephoned me a little before 1530 to report that Ceefax was showing that the match at Hillsborough had been stopped, that some people had been hurt, and that pictures were now coming in on Grandstand. Having turned on the radio and television myself to hear the news the Duty Clerk telephoned again a couple of minutes later to say that Mr. Powell had already telephoned to say that Carol Thatcher had informed the Prime Minister and that she was now watching the events unfold on television.

I then sought to get in touch with the Home Office, South Yorkshire police and DOE to get a fuller picture. Neither Home Office nor DOE were contactable until 1630 (indeed even the duty officer at DOE had only an answerphone). At about that time the Duty Clerk phoned me to say that the Chief Constable had been contacted and had reported the latest tally of casualties which the Duty Clerk had passed on to the Prime Minister. Also then I was able to contact the Home Secretary's and Mr. Ridley's offices to ensure that their Ministers were fully informed and suggested that one of them should go up to Sheffield that evening. Just after 1650 the Chief Constable phoned again with the latest figures which I relayed to the Prime Minister. She then raised with me whether or not she should go. I agreed to come back to her when I knew other Ministers' movements. At about 1730 the Home Secretary came through and agreed with the Prime Minister a joint visit to Sheffield the following morning. Shortly before 1800 I agreed with the Prime Minister the response for the press, a shortened version of which went out on the later evening news. At 1800 Mr. Ridley's office were able to

contact Mr. Moynihan and made arrangements for him to go up that night (he arrived at about 2230). The rest of the evening was, of course, spent planning for the following day.

Allowing for the fact that the South Yorkshire police lines were jammed and, when contacted, their information was patchy, I think there are nonetheless two lessons:

(i) departments need to make sure of their own duty officer arrangements whereby the Secretary of State or the duty Minister can always be contacted within, say, a maximum of 20 minutes;

(ii) that duty private secretaries in departments should be equipped with pagers, even if not with pager and mobile phone, as we are.

Had both of these been available I think the very slow response time could have been cut at least by an hour.

If you agree, I will make arrangements with departments so that this could be set in hand should the need arise in future.

DOMINIC MORRIS

17 April 1989

SL2AUT

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 April 1989

SHEFFIELD

I enclose the Prime Minister's replies to those Heads of State and Government who have sent messages of sympathy following the tragedy in Sheffield on Saturday, together with copies of the inward messages. I should be grateful if the replies could be sent by telegram in the course of today, with the originals to follow by bag.

I am copying this letter and enclosures to Philip Mawer (Home Office).

(C. D. POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

010

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

CCPO

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

17 April 1989

Dear Dominic,

HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM DISASTER

... I enclose a copy of the latest draft of the Statement which the Home Secretary will make to the Commons this afternoon on the disaster on Saturday at Hillsborough Stadium. Any comments on the draft should reach me no later than 2 pm. Lord Ferrers will repeat the statement in the Lords.

Copies of this letter and the draft go to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Lord Chancellor, the Secretaries of State for the Environment, Scotland, Health and Wales, the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whip (Commons and Lords) the Attorney General and the Minister for Sport, and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Philip Mawer

P J C MAWER

Dominic Morris, Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

THE HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM DISASTER

STATEMENT BY HOME SECRETARY: 17 APRIL 1989

With permission, Mr Speaker, I should like to make a statement about the disaster at the Sheffield Wednesday Football Club ground at Hillsborough Stadium on Saturday. Everyone has been horrified by this incredible tragedy in which 94 lost their lives and 174 were injured.

Shortly after the start of the match there was a surge of spectators on the Leppings Lane terrace which crushed many at the front against the perimeter fence. This accounted for most of the deaths and injuries.

The match was due to start at 3 p.m. To help ensure orderly access, the gates of the ground were opened at 12 noon. At 2.30 p.m. most of the Nottingham fans were in the ground, but many of the Liverpool supporters were still arriving. It was clear to the police officers in charge that there was ample capacity still to be filled in some parts of the enclosure allocated to Liverpool.

At about 2.45 p.m. there was a large crowd of Liverpool supporters at the turnstiles in Leppings Lane behind the West Stand. There was difficulty in coping with the pressure on the turnstiles and the police used loudhailers to urge the crowd to be patient.

/At about 2.50 p.m.

At about 2.50 p.m. more Liverpool supporters arrived and the numbers in front of the turnstiles increased. Some supporters started to climb the walls and turnstiles and those at the front of the crowd outside the stadium were under considerable pressure from those behind.

The senior police officer present considered that there was a possible danger to the lives of the spectators at the front of the crowd outside the stadium. In order to relieve the pressure he arranged for an exit gate near the turnstiles to be opened to let a section of the crowd through. The relationship of that action to the disaster on the terrace shortly afterwards is clearly a central question to be investigated.

My Rt Hon friend the Prime Minister and I yesterday visited the football ground and the two Sheffield hospitals which received casualties. I would like to pay tribute to all those involved in the rescue operations at the ground, including the many spectators who gave their help; and to those others, including the hospital staffs and voluntary agencies who have since been working so hard treating the injured and consoling the bereaved. We heard many accounts of courage exerted on behalf of others.

/I have asked ...

I have asked for further factual reports from the police and other services, the local authority and the Football Association. Inquests will be held in due course. But over and above this, there is clearly need for a full and independent inquiry to identify the causes of the disaster and to examine what needs to be done to prevent such an accident happening again. I have therefore asked Lord Justice Taylor to carry out an inquiry, with the following terms of reference:

> "To inquire into the events at Sheffield Wednesday football ground on 15 April 1989 and to recommend what further steps should be taken to improve crowd safety and ground control at sports events, including any necessary changes in the relevant legislation".

[Mr Brian Johnson, the Chief Constable of Lancashire] has agreed to assist the inquiry as an assessor; and arrangements will be made as necessary for other qualified assessors to be appointed and for the inquiry to be provided with technical advice and support. I am asking that the inquiry should proceed with all possible speed. Lord Justice Taylor will visit Sheffield tomorrow to begin his investigation. I am grateful to him for agreeing to undertake this task.

/An appeal fund...

An appeal fund is being set up by the civic authorities of Liverpool, Nottingham and Sheffield. The Government will be contributing £500,000 immediately towards this fund.

This was a devastating tragedy. Our deep sympathy goes to the families of those who died, to those recovering, and to those still fighting for life and health. We owe a duty to these passionate supporters of football to examine urgently and thoroughly the causes and background, and to do all in our power to prevent such a thing happening again.

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

17 April 1989

Dear Dominic,

HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM DISASTER

..... I enclose a copy of what I hope is the final draft of the statement which the Home Secretary will make in the Commons this afternoon. This takes account of the meeting this morning at No 10 between the Prime Minister, Home Secretary, Secretary of State for the Environment, and the Lord President, and of our subsequent telephone conversations.

Copies of this letter and draft go to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign & Commonwealth Secretary, the Lord Chancellor, the Secretaries of State for the Environment, Scotland, Health and Wales, the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whip (Commons and Lords), the Attorney General and the Minister for Sport, and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Philip Mawer

P J C MAWER

Dominic Morris, Esq.

Draft 6

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/However, we need ...

However, we need also to take a wider view. The Government believes that the future of football in this country lies in a national membership scheme in designated grounds and now it seems also in providing all seated accommodation at major football clubs. This would involve the disappearance of terraces at those grounds. It might also involve amendments to strengthen the Football Spectators Bill so that its provisions for the licensing of grounds matched this concept. We shall be considering these matters urgently and bringing changes forward as soon as possible.

An appeal fund is being set up by the civic authorities of Liverpool, Nottingham and Sheffield. The Government will be contributing £500,000 immediately towards this fund.

This was a devastating tragedy. Our deep sympathy goes to the families of those who died, to those recovering, and to those still fighting for life and health. We owe a duty to these passionate supporters of football to examine urgently and thoroughly the causes and background, and to do all in our power to prevent such a thing happening again. We have to set our sights high and find a better way for British football.

TO BE CHECKED AGAINST DELIVERY

THE HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM DISASTER

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This was a devastating tragedy. Our deep sympathy goes to the families of those who died, to those recovering, and to those still fighting for life and health. We owe a duty to these passionate supporters of football to examine urgently and thoroughly the causes and background, and to do all in our power to prevent such a thing happening again. We have to set our sights high and find a better way for British football.

R 16/4

DER BOTSCHAFTER
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

London, 16. April 1989
St/Ra

Baron Hermann von Richthofen

Dear Prime Minister

I have the honour to transmit the enclosed message of Herr Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

A courtesy translation is attached.

Yours sincerely

Hermann Richthofen

Her Excellency
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Her Majesty's Prime Minister and
First Lord of the Treasury
L o n d o n

R 16/4

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NIGERIA

9 NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE
LONDON WC2N 5BX

TELEPHONE: 01-839 1244

CDP
16/4.

16 April 1989

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
10 Downing Street

Dear Prime Minister

I have been instructed to transmit the enclosed message to you from President Babangida.

May I add too, Prime Minister, my humble condolences.

Yours sincerely,
George Dove-Edwin

(G. DOVE-EDWIN)
High Commissioner

Encl.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T82/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

16 April 1989

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Ibrahim,

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy in Sheffield. I have just returned from visiting the football ground, and still find it hard to believe that such a disaster could happen. I am afraid very many families have lost loved ones, and many of the victims were young. I know that your words of sympathy will help bring comfort to the families, and I shall ensure that they are informed of them.

Kind regards.

Yours very sincerely

Margaret

His Excellency General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, C.F.R.

PMM

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T81/89

16 April 1989

SUBJECT CC MASTER OPS

Dear Charlie,

Thank you for your kind message of sympathy following the tragedy at Sheffield yesterday. I have just returned from a visit to the site of the disaster and it is hard to believe that so many people have lost their lives at what should have been a happy, sporting occasion. The sympathy of friends means a great deal at a time like this and I shall ensure that your condolences are passed on to the families of the victims who will, I am sure, be comforted by them.

Yours ever

Margaret

Mr. Charles Haughey, T.D.

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T80/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS

Dear Prime Minister

It was good of you to send such a prompt message of sympathy following yesterday's tragedy at the football match at Sheffield. The loss of life has been very heavy and most of the victims were young people who had set out to attend what should have been a happy, sporting occasion. The sympathy of friends means a great deal at a time like this and I know that the families of the victims will draw comfort from your condolences.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Senor Don Felipe Gonzalez Marquez

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

16 April 1989

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear M. President,

It was thoughtful of you to send such a prompt message of sympathy following the terrible tragedy at Sheffield, in which so many people lost their lives. Your kind concern will be much appreciated in this country and I shall ensure that your condolences are conveyed to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T79/89

SUBJECT CC MASTER
OPS

His Excellency Monsieur le Président Mitterrand, G.C.B.

PMM

CCTO
HO.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

16 April 1989

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T78/89
SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS

Dear George,

It was very good of you to be in touch so promptly to express sympathy following the terrible tragedy at the football match in Sheffield yesterday. The loss of life was appalling. Very many families have been bereaved, with so many of those killed being young people. The kind concern of our friends means a great deal at difficult times like this and I know that your condolences will be a comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours was the first message we received - it was such a comfort.

Yours ever

Margaret

The President of the United States of America

R

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

16 April 1989

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Monsieur Delors

Thank you for your message of sympathy following the disaster in Sheffield yesterday in which so many people, above all young people, lost their lives. The support of friends is very much appreciated at such a difficult time and I shall certainly make sure that your expression of sympathy is passed on to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Monsieur Jacques Delors



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

16 April 1989

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your very kind words of sympathy following the tragedy in Sheffield yesterday. It is still difficult to believe it could have happened. But the sympathy of our friends is very welcome at such a difficult time and your kind words will be of comfort to the families of the victims.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Monsieur le Premier Ministre Michel Rocard

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO HILLSBOROUGH, SHEFFIELD
16 APRIL 1989

Party

Prime Minister
Home Secretary
Mr. Morris
Mr. Ingham
Miss Knipe
Det. Supt. Butler
Det. Chief Inspector Dwyer

Saturday 15 April

[Doug Lewis and Phil Sutcliffe overnight in Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield Tel: 0742 768822].

Sunday 16 April

1030 Depart No.10

Car 1 (Bob) Prime Minister, Home Secretary, Detective

Back-up

Car 2 (No.10 car) Mr. Morris, Mr. Ingham

Car 3 (GCS) Miss Knipe

1040 Arrive Chelsea Barracks

1050 Depart Chelsea Barracks by RAF PUMA

1200 Arrive South Yorks. Police Sports and Social Club (Niagara Road, Hillsborough, Sheffield)

Car 1
(Denis) Prime Minister
Home Secretary

Back-up
Car 2
Mr. Morris (Grey Vauxhall Senator -
Mr. Ingham F888 HNF, driven by
Ms.Judith Baxter)

Car 3 Miss Knipe (Silver Grey Ford Granada -
B398 DTU, driven by
Mrs. Glynis Atkins,
0204 693672)

Met by Chief Constable Peter Wright and Mr. Moynihan.
Meet emergency services and receive briefing.

1230 Visit Hillsborough Ground

1300 Depart for Northern General Hospital (currently 35 casualties)

1305 Arrive Northern General Hospital

1400 Depart for Royal Hallamshire Hospital

1415 Arrive Royal Hallamshire Hospital (80 casualties)

c1530 Depart to return to helicopter

c1630 Arrive Chelsea Barracks

Car 1 Prime Minister
(Bob) Home Secretary
Detective

Car 2 Mr. Morris
(GCS) Mr. Ingham

Car 3 Miss Knipe

c1640 Arrive No.10

PM2AOJ

R16/4

Duty Officer, NO.10
Rec'd this morning, following telephone call last night
CSFogman
(Resident Clerk)
16/4

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
LONDRES

le 16 avril 1989

L'Ambassade de France présente ses compliments au Foreign and Commonwealth Office et a l'honneur de bien vouloir faire parvenir au Premier Ministre le message ci-joint que lui adresse le Président de la République Française.

L'Ambassade de France saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au Foreign and Commonwealth Office l'assurance de sa très haute considération./.

PV

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE EN GRANDE BRETAGNE LONDRES

P.J.
1

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
London SW1A 2AL

SUBJECT c-MASTER OPS.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 77e/89.

16 April 1989

President of the Federal
Executive Council of the
Socialist Federal Republic
of Yugoslavia

Deeply distressed by the tragedy at Sheffield Stadium and the loss of so many human life, may I extend to you personally and to Her Majesty's Government on behalf of the Federal Executive Council and myself our sincere sympathy.

Please convey to the bereaved families the expressions of our profound condolences.

(Sgd) Ante Markovic

The Rt.Hon.
Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
10 Downing Street
London

NNNN

SUBJECT a MASTER ORS

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T770/89

16 APR 1989/1311

ZCZC BLM0002 VSA661 BFB823 CFA152

GBXX CK BNDA 080

BAHRAIN 80/78 16 1435

ETAT

HER EXCELLENCY THE RIGHTHONOURABLE MRS. MARGARET THATCHER

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER 10-DOWNING STREET

LONDON S.W.1

WE EXTEND OUR DEEP AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND TO THE FREENDLY BRITISH PEOPLE OVER THE PAINFULL TRAGEDY OF THE SHEFFIELD FOOTBALL STADIUM WHICH WE RECEIVED WITH EXTREME SORROW AND DISTRESS. WE PRAY TO GOD TO GIVE THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE FICTIMS THE FORTITUDE TO BEAR THEIR GREAT LOSS.

ISA BIN SALMAN AL-KHALIFA

THE AMIR OF THE STATE OF BAHRAIN

International Telegram
British TELECOM
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

SUBJECT c MASTER OPS.

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T77c/89

NNNN

16 APR 1989/1934

ZCZC DLN0220 OLN748

GBXX CO N000 058

OSLO 58 16 2028

ETAT

RT HON MARGARET THATCHER, FRS, MP

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S PRIME MINISTER

LONDON

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

PLEASE ACCEPT MY PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL TRAGEDY IN SHEFFIELD. I ASK YOU TO CONVEY THE CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY OF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES.

YOURS SINCERELY

GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

PRIME MINISTER OF NORWAY

TOTAL P.01

SUBJECT a MASTER OPS.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T77c/89

NNNN

16 APR 1989/1934

ZCZC DLM0220 OLN748

GBXX CO N000 058

OSLO 58 16 2028

ETAT

RT HON MARGARET THATCHER, FRS, MP

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S PRIME MINISTER

LONDON

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

PLEASE ACCEPT MY PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL TRAGEDY IN SHEFFIELD. I ASK YOU TO CONVEY THE CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY OF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES.

YOURS SINCERELY

GRO HARLEN BRUNDTLAND

PRIME MINISTER OF NORWAY

TOTAL P.01

16 APR 1989/1406

ZCZC DLM0053 ZGX1944 DP8911G853

GBXX CO DPBN 117

BONN-PRESSEHAUS 117/96 16 1445

FRAU MARGRET THATCHER

PREMIERMINISTERIN

DER REGIERUNG

DES VEREINIGTEN KOENIGREICHES

DOWNINGSTREET 10

LONDON SW1

SEHR GEEHRTE FRAU PREMIERMINISTERIN,

ANLAESSLICH DER KATASTROPHE, DIE GESTERN IM STADION VON

SHEFFIELD

UEBER HUNDERT MENSCHEN DAS LEBEN GEKOSTET HAT,

SPRECHE ICH DEN

ANGEHOERIGEN DER TOTEN, DEN BETEILIGTEN SPORTORGANISATIONEN UND

IHREM LANDE MEIN TIEFEMPFUNDENES BEILEID AUS. MIT ALLEN

ANGEHOERIGEN

UNSERES VOLKES SIND AUCH DIE DEUTSCHEN SOZIALDEMOKRATINNEN

UND

SOZIALDEMOKRATEN ERSCHUETTERT UEBER DAS SINNLOSE STERBEN

VON

MENSCHEN, DIE EINE SPORTLICHE BEGEGNUNG MITERLEBEN UND

SICH AN

SPORTLICHEN LEISTUNGEN ERFREUEN WOLLTEN.

DEN VERLETZTEN WUENSCHEN WIR BALDIGE GENESUNG.

IN AUFRICHTER ANTEILNAHME.

IHR HANS-JOCHEN VOGEL

VORSITZENDER DER SOZIALDEMOKRATISCHEN PARTEI DEUTSCHLANDS

International Telegram
British TELECOM
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

MANN

16 APR 1989/1308

ZCZC DLM9998 VSA660 BFB822 CFA151

GBXX CK BNBA 090

BAHRAIN 90/88 16 1430

ETAT

HER EXCELLENCY THE RIGHTHONOURABLE MRS. MARGARET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER 10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON S.W.1

I HAVE RECEIVED WITH DEEP SORROW THE SAD NEWS OF THE SHEFFIELD FOOTBALL STADIUM TRAGEDY AT WHICH SO MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES. EXTENDING OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND TO THE FRIENDLY BRITISH PEOPLE WE PRAY TO GOD THE AL MIGHTY TO GRANT THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THAT DISASTER THE FORTITUDE TO BEAR THEIR GREAT LOSS.

KHALIFA BIN SALMAN AL-KHALIFA

PRIME MINISTER OF THE STATE OF BAHRAIN

International Telegram
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PREM 19/2620 Ric

SPECIAL SUNDAY EDITION

The Star

IT'S YOUR PAPER Sunday, April 16, 1989 18p



HILLSBOROUGH FOOTBALL DISASTER

GATEWAY TO HELL

93 crushed to death, 170 hurt



NINETY THREE soccer fans died in a horrific crowd crush at Hillsborough's Liverpool-Nottingham Forest FA Cup semi-final — the worst disaster in British sporting history.

The tragedy happened after police opened gates and let hundreds of supporters pour into the Leppings Lane End where thousands of Liverpool fans were already massed.

Most of the dead were young people and children who were crushed against terrace crowd barriers that twisted like "pipe cleaners" or trapped against the high-security wire fence — aimed at keeping the fans off the pitch.

One hundred and seventy were injured. This morning 73 of the injured were still in hospital, 22 of them in intensive care.

Most were unconscious and breathing with the help of ventilators — doctors said they could have gone 10 or 15 minutes in the crush without breathing properly and it was too early to know if they had suffered lasting brain damage.

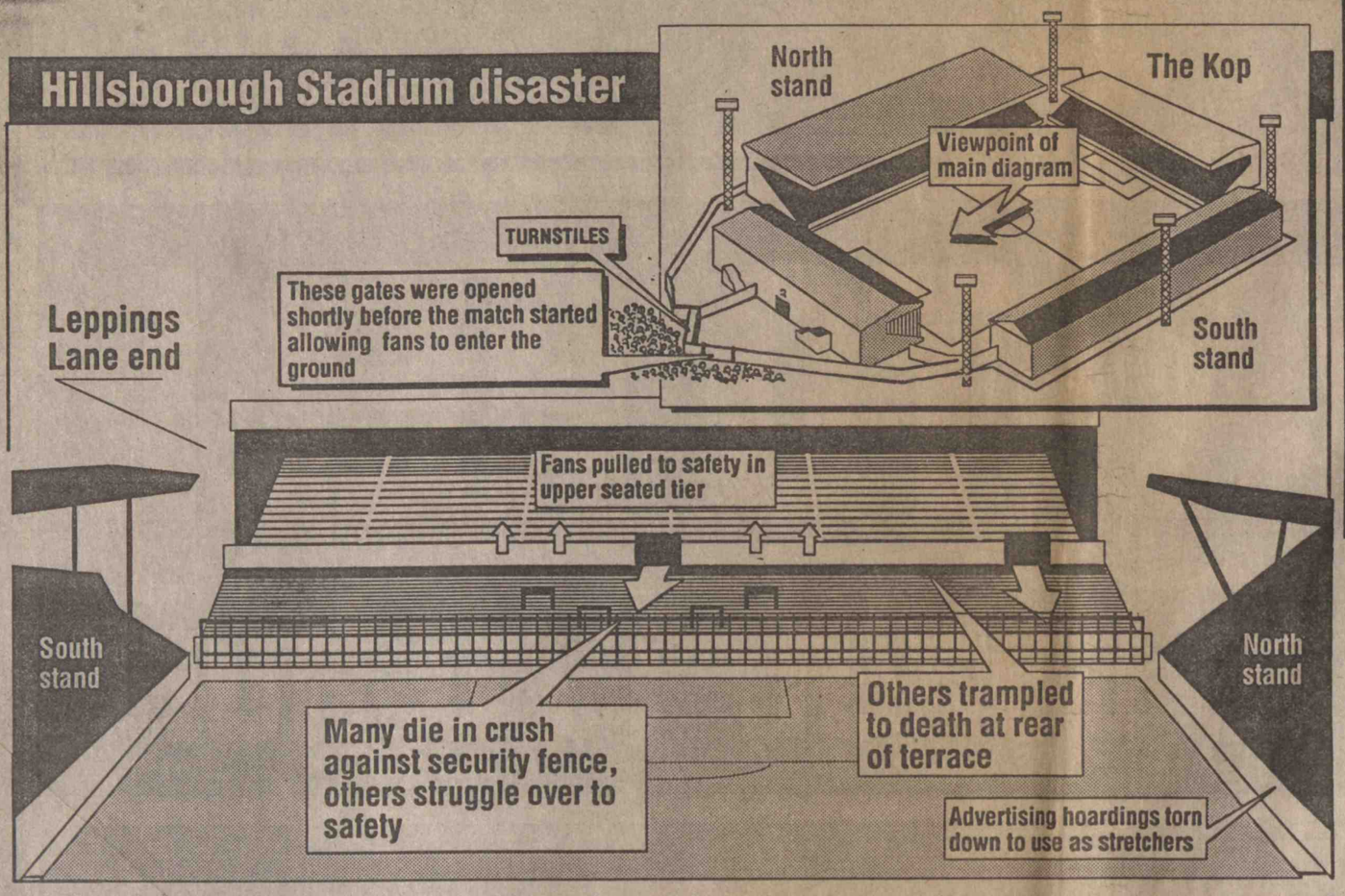
Yesterday's nightmare, which happened just minutes into the start of the game, was a sickening repeat of the Heysel Stadium horror four years ago — except this time Liverpool fans were not to blame, but the victims.

The Football Association has launched an inquiry and a "shocked" Mrs Thatcher, who said she "shared everyone's disbelief as the mounting horror unfolded", called for an urgent report.

Last night South Yorkshire Chief Constable Peter Wright admitted a senior police officer had ordered huge steel gates at the back of the stand to be opened — and this closely coincided with the crush inside.

● What went wrong: P2 ● The fatal surge: P4 ● Mercy mission: P5

PREM 14/2620





Policewomen attend to a stricken fan laid out on the turf at Hillsborough

Furious decision

Top lawyer Owls over

THE FATEFUL decision to open the floodgates of death was taken by an experienced officer confronted by the worst scene he could ever have imagined.

He acted swiftly and deliberately in ordering a 12-foot steel gate to be opened. It was a desperate bid to avoid loss of lives among the masses at the front of the turnstiles.

His decision was taken on the spot, in the heat of a moment of madness. He thought it unavoidable.

Within minutes it had backfired in a catastrophe which brought about the biggest soccer tragedy in the history of the British game.

Nearly 100 dead and twice as many injured.

That decision will now be the subject of a major investigation, the result of which will be monitored by the whole world.

Worst still for him, it could remain on his conscience for the rest of his life.

Visibly-moved, Chief Constable Peter Wright refused to pillory the man or even name him at a press briefing fours hours later at Snig Hill HQ.

Many of the 23,000 Liverpool fans streaming home apportioned blame in the mystery police chief's direction.

So did the lawyer representing the Heysel stadium defendants Sir Harry Livermore.

Sir Harry, aged 80, saw the horrific scenes from his seat in the stands. He said: "I am not letting the Liverpool supporters be blamed for this."

He accused local police and Sheffield Wednesday FC of "inefficiency", and claimed the situation had become dangerous half an hour before the kick off.

"The problem was obvious to me more than half an hour before the game started.

"Before the kick off people were waving their hands up in the air. I couldn't hear what they

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE



The gate of death that was opened just before the tragedy

Fans forced back into chaos they fought to escape

SHEFFIELD soccer fan Geoff Thomas found himself pleading with police to stop herding fans back into the Hillsborough death zone. As fans spilled onto the pitch, he claims he saw police forcing fans back into the chaos they were fighting to escape.

A life-long Nottingham fan, he went to yesterday's match expecting 90 minutes of excitement.

Instead, he said, he witnessed a quarter of an hour of chaos with no co-ordination and even less organisation of police.

Geoff, of Norfolk Hill, Grenoside, was sitting with fellow Nottingham fans, opposite the half-way line when fans began spilling onto the field.

"After about six minutes, people started pouring onto the pitch. A senior police officer begged the ref to stop the game and the players were sent off. "They started pushing fans back. They should have got them onto the pitch but they shoved them back into an area which was clearly crowded. There were spaces in the two adjacent areas.

FULL STORY

"I said to a steward that they should not do that, otherwise there would be a death. But nothing was done.

"I actually then went to the police control box and said to a policeman that there was clearly nobody in charge. It was chaos

"There were so many things happening at once. There were people, officials and police running around like headless chickens.

"There was no organisation. All the loudspeaker messages were telling people to 'Get Off The Pitch' but not telling people where to go.

"Also, the volume was so low that many people would not have heard what was said."

He reckoned that 75 per cent of fans would not have known the full story and would not have known what to do.

SHOUTING AND SPITTING

This became obvious when Nottingham fans began jeering Liverpool supporters — particularly as the Liverpool fans jumped on the crossbar. "The Nottingham lads thought they were goading them but they were trying to pull down the net to clear the way for fans to escape the crush.

"The police should have known. They had a control room with monitors

"But instead of letting the crushed fans spill onto the pitch, they pushed them back and then busied themselves keeping the fans apart, apparently more concerned with public order offences than with the safety of fans."

PROOF 19/2620

fans attack fateful police to open gates of death

slams safety

were saying but it was obvious they were crying for help and there was distress.

"As the game started some of them climbed over eight or nine feet of fencing onto the pitch and all the police reaction was to shove them off the pitch.

"One young lad was on the pitch very distressed. A police officer came, picked him up and literally threw him off the pitch.

"I thought that wasn't on, and the situation then deteriorated. People continued to overflow and the game was stopped."

Sir Harry said the tragedy "was entirely due to the inefficiency of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club for their lack of proper organisation, and the inefficiency of the Sheffield police.

"It may be hard luck that they are held responsible — but this again is a tragedy which should never have happened."

Liverpool fan Mark Lackey, from Huyton, said: "The 'bizzies' (police) on the gate ordered it open and afterwards I shouted at one of them, saying it was his fault.

"At first he denied it, saying the fans had pushed the gate open. But I deliberately looked at the lock and it was not broken.

"Now we'll get the blame . . . it will be another Heysel all over again".

Builder Robert Barton, aged 30, also from Huyton, said: "Those who got in either didn't have a ticket or weren't asked to show one."

A 30-year-old BR worker from West Derby added: "I just cannot understand how this could have happened. I've never known police open a gate to allow fans into a ground which is already packed to the rafters."

One fan came out of the ground to present Star reporter Bob Westerdale with an uncut ticket.

"I just walked in with everyone else. The crush was terrible.We just wanted to see the game."

St John Ambulanceman James Gilpin said: "This is the first time I've been working at a match and I shall never forget what I saw, not for as long as I live.

"The most horrific thing I have seen was when I pulled a little boy out fo the crowd, he couldn't have been more than five or six. He went all mottled and blue and died in my arms."

Jane Saunders, 17, from Cantrill Farm, Liverpool said: "I was in the next section to the Leppings Lane end, there were far too many people in there.

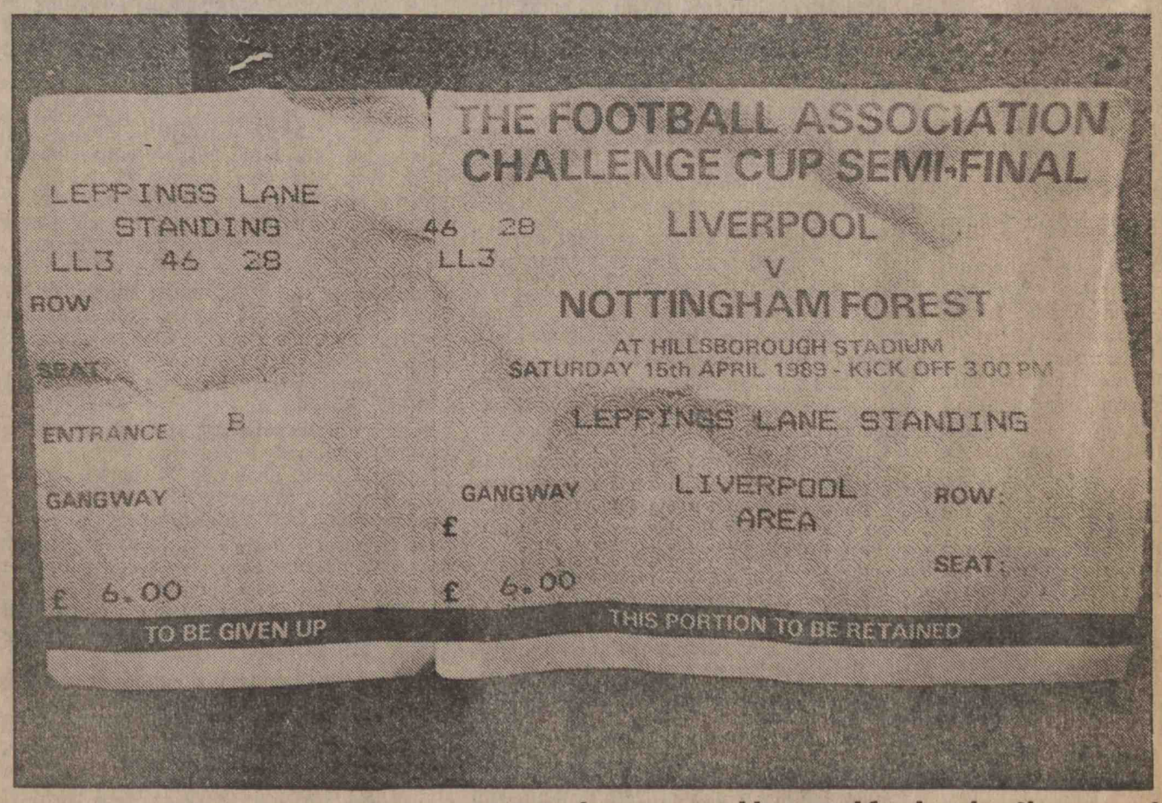
"In the crush people were trying to climb over each other to safety. There was nowhere for them to go. Nothing could stop them".

She said: "I've supported Liverpool all my life but I'll never go to another match again".

The steward at the turnstiles of death was later interviewed on local radio. He said: "I don't know who the senior office was. I said what have you done? He said somebody would have got killed otherwise. Then there was just one big crush".



Kiss of life: a policeman frantically tries to revive an unconscious supporter pulled out of the crush



The untorn ticket presented to our reporter by an angry Liverpool fan leaving the ground



Comforting words for a fan whose arm has been horrifically broken during the crowd chaos

PREM 19/2620

DELAYED ENTRY CAUSED A FATAL SURGE BY FANS

THE DECISION by many fans to stay outside Hillsborough and soak up the sunshine and atmosphere cost them their lives.

Just 15 minutes before the game was due to start police estimate there were still 2,000 Liverpool outside the ground at the Leppings Lane end.

Fearful of problems as kick-off approached officers opened locked metal doors next to the turnstiles and spectators poured through Gangway 2 with fatal consequences.

Fans began arriving in Sheffield mid morning, but by 2pm there were still plenty of gaps on the terraces.

Wednesdayite Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, feared something was wrong as kick off approached.

"I thought it was unusual that five steps behind a corner flag at the Liverpool end were empty yet it was packed behind the goal. The distribution of fans seemed all wrong."

TICKETS

Lifelong Liverpool fan Kevin Mulvaney, who was outside the Leppings Lane stand with his ticket five minutes before the kick-off, said: "I've never seen so many fans outside a ground. There must have been 4,000. We couldn't move.

"Many didn't have tickets, but a lot did and they were desperate to see the game."

The 18-year-old printer who had travelled alone from Liverpool on the early train, said many fans had just come along on the day hoping to get in.

"One policeman said it would take an hour to get everybody in and asked people with tickets to wave them in the air. Then the police opened the gate of front of me and that was it. They must have thought there was going to be trouble.

"Everyone surged forward and we were carried into the ground. But the gate definitely wasn't forced, it was opened."

A Hillsborough gateman confirmed this view: "People were anxious to get in, at 2.30 or 2.45. Several thousands flooded through a 16ft-wide gate."

ORDER

He heard a police man give an order to open the gate and he reckons that most of those who died went through his gate.

"I do not know how senior the officer was. There were several police outside and they just opened the gate.

"I said 'what have you done?' and they said there is a lot more going to get killed outside if we do not.

"There was just a huge crush. Police could not stop them getting in.

"Nothing like this has happened before."

The gateman, who has not been named, was asked if the action of the police opening tha gate led to the crush which caused this disaster. He replied: "That is my opinion. Yes. I got upset about it. When I came out of my turnstile there were people dead and I saw them.

"I am certain it was the police and I have got my own opinions about what could be done.

PUSHING

"I do not mean punishment. I mean to try and stop a lot of this pushing and crushing at the last minute."

All the fans were funnelled down the narrow Gangway 2 and directly onto the most crowded part of the terrace.

Liverpudlian Michael Saulter, aged 15, was inside when the crush began.

"Everyone was pushing forward and people started to try and climb over the fence onto the pitch but they were getting stuck on the spikes on top." he said.

The situation worsened when Liverpool striker Peter Bearsley hit the Forest crossbar. The Merseyside supporters surged forward, crushing even more people against the fence at the front, and others coming in filled their places at the back.

FENCE

At this point police and stewards realised they had a disaster on their hands and began tearing away the meshing on front of the perimeter fence to pull people clear. By this time many were already dead.

While all this was going on, Nottingham Fortest fans stood and cheered.

It was only until bodies, carried on sections of fencing ripped down from the stand, passed before them did they quieten.

Russ de Haney, aged 38, of Psalter Lane, Sharrow, Sheffield, said: "From the other end we could see people spilling onto the pitch. Then the stretchers arrived.

'SICK'

"But as every stretcher appeared, the Forest fans cheered loudly and shouted loads of abuse, happy that it was one less Scouse fan. It was all so sick, terrible.

"You could see bodies being taken out with coats over their faces.

"It was then the Forest fans realised how serious it was and shut up.

"The police did not seem to be doing anything. At first the ones down my end did nothing, just stood there as if nothing was going on.

"Then as the crowd spilled on to the pitch more those at the other end just backed off. Finally about 200 came marching in to the stadium and made a line at the halfway line."

Meanwhile, the grim reality of the story was unfolding in Hillsborough's club gym, which was turned into a temporary mortuary. Inside priests were administering the last rites. Crowds of police stood around in the sealed off area behind the stand, many unable to do any more than turn away the curious.

"There's nothing we can do in there now except identify the dead and inform relatives," said one weary constable.

A Liverpool fan with his arm in a sling and supported by a friend walked away from the gym.

"You don't want to go in there. You just don't," he muttered to a fellow supporter, head bowed.

Beyond the police cordon a young fan tried to bring a small spray of red carnations towards the gymnasium. Refused entry, he carefully propped the flowers against the wall.

Amidst the chaos teenager Keith Williams from Liverpool was searching for his friend. He found him, dead, on the pitch.

"It was awful. There were about 40 people lying on the grass. They were all blue," he said.

Ambulance teams later faced the grim task of transferring bodies from the make-shift morgue at Hillsborough to the city's mortuaries.

AMBULANCES

The South Yorkshire Ambulance Service was alerted to the disaster within minutes of the kick-off and triggered their Major Incident Plan for the first time ever.

The service normally relies on St John and Red Cross volunteers to man matches and look after any casualties. But because yesterday was a major cup tie, they had three units on standby.

Their first call came at 3.12pm. The first ambulance arrived four minutes later at the ground.

Within 15 minutes of the first call, 25 ambulances were at the scene. A number of offers were received from neighbouring ambulance services, but they were not needed. South Yorkshire was able to cope.

But there was one sour note to the heroic response by ambulance servicemen. One man was actually assaulted as he dealt with casualties on the pitch and he had to be taken to hospital himself and treated for minor injuries.

There were 60 people in the operational crews, manning 25 ambulances and another 20 people in the control room to make sure that the emergency ran smoothly and casualties were taken to hospital as quickly as possible.

Off duty ambulancemen started to arrive within minutes of the alert sounding.

The county's chief ambulance officer, Don Page said: "Within minutes of the alert, off duty amublancemen started to arrive. They dropped everything and came straight away.

"We even had off-duty crewmen in the crowd at Hillsborough watching the game who pitched in straight away to help the dead and dying.

"While we were treating casualties, we had a number of calls from around the ground where people had been assaulted. It may have been because everyone was so shocked at what had happened their feelings just boiled over.

"A major problem was getting ambulances in and out of the ground. The traffic in the area was chaotic. But eventually, we got through."

The Major Incident plan calls for instant response from scores of ambulance personell, from those who take out vehicles to communications experts manning control sytems.

Added Mr Page: "This is the biggest incident we have ever had to deal with. Everyone is absolutely devastated.

"We deal with death all the time. But never with anything like this."

At 6pm, Mr Page went to the scene of the disaster and was visibly shaken by what he saw.

"Ambulancemen and officers dealing with the incident were in a state of shock and severe stress. I saw very experienced men in tears this afternoon," said Mr Page.

"When they went to the ground, they never realised just how serious it all was.

"Most casualties appeared to be suffering from mainly severe chest and abdominal injuries."

Ambulance crews were so shaken by their experiences that they now will undergo special counselling sessions to help them come to terms with what they saw and did.

"There will now be a problem of building up confidence again among my crews after what they have gone through this afternoon," said Mr Page last night.

STRETCHERS

He added that ambulances were driven onto the pitch to get as close as possible to the victims. Police and fans helped to ferry casualties to the ambulance crews using hoarding and lengths of fencing as make-shift stretchers.

Added Liverpool born Mr Page: "We were proud to have this semi final at Hillsborough. Probably I feel it more because I am from that city. It is a terrible tragedy which I shall never forget."

The operation was wound down at around 6.30pm.

Back at a disbelieving Hillsborough, the inquiry was already beginning.

Rogan Taylor, chairman of the Liverpool-based Football Supporters Association, said the blame lay with the authorities who allocated Liverpool's massive following fewer tickets than Forest, ironically because it made crowd control easier.

He said: "When you deal this way with a club with a following like Liverpool you are lighting the blue touch paper.

"It was an impossible situation outside, imagine being a policeman in that situation. Their response was to get the fans inside where they had some control over them. As soon as that decision was made things were bound to go drastically wrong."

'Police opened the gate — I said what have you done...'



A distraught fan is helped away



Aftermath — a torn fence against which fans had been crushed



Stretcher bearers rush a victim from the pitch

PREM 19/2620



A fan offers up a prayer as the dead and injured are carried off from the scene of carnage

Mary in mission of mercy for fans

DESPERATE Liverpool fans showered a house near Hillsborough stadium with coins, pleading with the owner to phone their families.

Ten minutes after the fatal surge in the stand began, jostling fans were calling down to the house in Vere Road, 20 feet below.

Mary Kitson heard dozens of supporters shouting their telephone numbers to her and throwing money.

Without a second thought, Mary rushed to the phone and began a painstaking round of calls telling relatives that their loved ones had survived the sickening tragedy.

'Wrong numbers'

She said: "I thought nothing of it. It was the least I could have done. I phoned a few wrong numbers, but I got through eventually.

"Everyone I spoke to could not thank me enough."

Other residents in Vere Road, which is right next to the ground, offered departing fans cups of tea.



Volunteers carry away an injured fan by his arms and legs



An unconscious victim is revived



Stop the match! A police officer orders the referee to end the game. Forest player and former Wednesday ace Lee Chapman looks aghast

'I watched as fan was crushed to death before me'

LIVERPOOL fan Alan McNabb was INCHES from death. Just in front of him, he saw a 19-year-old lad turn blue and die — unable to breathe in the crush.

It was the second time a football match had come close to killing the survivor of the Heysel stadium disaster.

He escaped the carnage thanks to his experience of standing in packed terraces, but launched a scathing attack on the ticket allocation and claimed police opened the gates to anyone outside — swelling the packed terraces to crisis point.

He told The Star: "I could see that areas to the side of the terraces were clear. You could have fitted 2,000 people on either side and then things would have been all right. As it was, it was left up to the fans to sort themselves out and they could do nothing in the chaos."

Alan, aged 43, of Hilderbrand Road, Anfield, added: "There was one kid right in front of my face . . . his lungs must have collapsed. He just turned blue and his lips were purple. He did not go down — the crowd held him up as the crush was so tight — but he was dead.

'Crushed'

"The police could do nothing at that point. They were in danger of being crushed to death themselves, but they should never have opened the gates. They only seemed to do it to ease the congestion in the streets outside. People were going in whether they had tickets or not.

"In situations like this, the places to avoid are walls, fences and in front of barriers. I got behind a barrier and was all right. From there, I climbed on top of the barrier and headed towards the side. It was sick; the whole thing waa terrible. Looking down towards the fence in front of me, there were 40 or 50 people in real trouble. At least four had died.

"Before the Heysel game Peter Robinson, chairman of Liverpool, said the ticket allocation was wrong — too few for us. It was the same this time. He asked why we were given the smaller end when we bring so many more fans.

"This time we, as fans, are not going to carry the can. Someone else is going to take the blame."

Stunned Liverpool fan Ian Turner, aged 21, of Wiltshire, laid the blame for the disaster firmly at the door of the police.

'Faces purple'

He said: "People were lying. It was bodies on top of bodies. Faces were purple.

"The police let all these people in without tickets so they all just ran into this one small gate. It was chaos. I was crushed and was dangling two feet off the ground.

"This young girl in front of me had her head buried inside this man's jacket. She just could not breathe. I tried to move her, but I was just jammed and could not move.

"I wriggled free and saw this bloke with his face all purple, so I slapped him and slapped him, but he was dead.

"I saw this nine or ten-year-old dead. Someone else said his mate died right in front of him but that he could do nothing to help him.

'Blood'

"The police are to blame for this. Where people were pushing to get in, they let them. Then, it was chaos.

"I was pushed on to the floor, and there was a man with his face covered in blood. I saw at least 30 people right in front of me dead. Some people were literally dead on their feet, and others were laying all over the terraces like Heysel.

"I had to crawl out on my hands and knees."



The dispirited players quit the field under police escort as realisation of the extent of the tragedy is brought home

Owls stars describe scenes of horror and club's shock



Nigel Worthington –'I felt sick'



Nigel Pearson – 'Terrible to see'

SHEFFIELD Wednesday player Nigel Worthington watched in horror from the front of the North Stand, close to where the dead and injured were brought out.

"It's one of the things you remember for the rest of your life," he said.

"There were young lads running about the pitch screaming. One was screaming 'he's dead, he's dead'. They didn't know where to turn.

"Some of the people they were bringing out were big, strapping men. But they'd obviously been helpless.

"I saw somebody whose arm was U-shaped. I stayed for about 25 minutes and then I walked out. I felt sick.

"I'm so glad I didn't take my son, who is just two. He might not have appreciated what was going on. But just the thought of him being there . . .

"It's all so sad. There's nothing good to come out of it, though at least it wasn't fighting that caused it."

In shock

Only the night before the tragedy, players and their wives, directors, officials and fans, had enjoyed a night out at the supporters' club's annual presentation and dance at Hillsborough's Riverside Suite — just yards away from where so many people were to die.

Now the whole club is in shock.

Wednesday captain Nigel Pearson watched from the South Stand.

"I think it took a good 20 minutes before people realised exactly what was going on," he said.

"I was there with my wife and we were very upset. I felt sick.

"It was terrible to witness. Being in the stand, you feel so helpless. You can't do a thing, but you feel for those who have lost people."

Shocked Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish, who witnessed the Heysel tragedy, spoke of the club's anguish that what could have been their passport to Wembley had turned into another ghastly nightmare.

But he added: "Football is irrelevant when something like this happens.

Wednesday manager Ron Atkinson was at a match in Leicester, and when he heard about the incident was worried about his father, Fred, who had gone to the Hillsborough.

"I phoned the ground at half-time and he was there in my office at Hillsborough," he said. "His ticket was for the stand and he was not involved in the tragedy.

"I think everybody is stunned. It is hard to express it in words."

Questions

Steve McCall, speaking before the exact cause of the disaster was established, said: "It's sad . . . it reflects on us because it's our ground, and on the police, who have done a good job in previous years. But there are so many questions still to be answered."

"I just can't believe it," said another player, Imre Varadi, who was not at the match.

Nottingham Forest coach Liam O'Kane said: "We're devastated. Brian Clough is devastated too. We came to play football and a lot of people have lost their lives."

Nightmare scene as youngsters pleaded for help

SHEFFIELD Wednesday club photographer, Steve Ellis, had taken up his position at the side of the Leppings Lane goal to record the drama on the football field. Instead, he ended up witnessing a major human tragedy only inches away.

"I was covering the match for the club and for no particular reason decided to sit at the Leppings Lane end behind the advertising hoardings. I thought it was the best light for the photographs.

"I'd only been sat on my box for two minutes when I could hear and see kids screaming. They were being pushed right up against the fencing and wanting to get out.

"There seemed plenty of space in the two side sections at the Leppings Lane end. It just seemed that everybody was in the middle section.

"More were coming in from the back, pushing forward and there was a concertina effect. Some people began climbing over the fence.

"At first the police were trying to stop the fans climbing over, but when they realised how serious it was, they could not get to them because of the fencing. They were helpless.

HELPLESS

"I know most of the bobbies from week to week and they could not do a thing.

"As some fans began spilling on to the pitch, I moved in front of the north stand for my own safety and started taking photographs of the general scene.

"All the photographers were being spat at by Liverpool fans and I can understand their feelings, but we were just doing our job.

"It wasn't until about half an hour later that I began to realise the full scale of what had happened. I was speaking to the club doctor, Bill Purcell, on the field and he told me and I broke down on tears.

"I spoke to Bert McGee and he was in tears. He just said he never thought this could happen at Hillsborough.

"When it was happening, I was taking photographs because that is my job. But it really started to hit me when the Liverpool fans and police were bringing out fans from Leppings Lane on advertising hoardings and taking them in front of the kop.

"One of the fans had a police jacket over his head. I can still see the young lads behind the fencing shouting 'save me!' I'll never forget it until the day I die."

● From the privileged viewpoint of the press box radio sports commentator Dean Peppal witnessed the death of nearly 100 people . . . and the lives saved of hundreds more.

But Dean, who regularly commentates on Sheffield Wednesday for the city's Radio Hallam radio station, says no-one could have realised and reacted to the scale of the tradegy as people perished out of sight under a mass of screaming bodies.

FORWARD

And he explained that when Forest narrowly missed going one-nil down, it brought the Liverpool fans surging foward and increasing the pressure on the trapped.

He told The Star: "At first you could see a few people spilling over onto the pitch, which is nothing strange when things get a bit crowded. Beforehand in the press box some reporters had mentioned they were concerned about the number of people in the Liverpool end.

"The fans had been cheering away but you could hear the cheers change to shours of panic. The Forest fans were not at all sympathetic until they realised what was going on.

"More police did get down there and I could not see what they were doing, but terraces are difficult to get from, they are designed to keep people in, not get them out. There are only three small gates to get out through.

"There were dozens, possibly hundreds, pulled to safety by people in the stands above. They took a real risk, they could have easily fallen and were very brave.

"On the pitch there were small groups of Liverpool fans discussing what had happened and were very angry, some fights nearly broke out but police moved in very quickly. But there was quite a major charge by Liverpool fans towards th Forest end, I do not know what sparked them off. The police formed a lone across the pitch and cut them off and stayed there.

STRIPPED

"It started off as a wonderful day — just before the match I waved to Sheffield Wednesday the pysiotherapist behind me. He was looking smart in suit and tie but the next time I saw him he was stripped down wading through bodies to help.

"Today I have seen around 100 people die and many, many more injured. It has not sunk it yet, but it will."

● Press messenger Michael Whittaker was "sickened to the core" as young children barely breathing were lifted from the terraces.

Michael, aged 32, of Jenkin Road, Wincobank, Sheffield, was yards away from the Leppings Lane end when the surging began.

One minute the fans were cheering a shot from Peter Beardsley, the next be saw them being crushed against the fencing aimed to keep them in.

"Panicking, screaming fans were clambering to get over the fence but the the overhang stopped them. The measures that were used to keep hooligans penned in kept parents and their children from getting out.

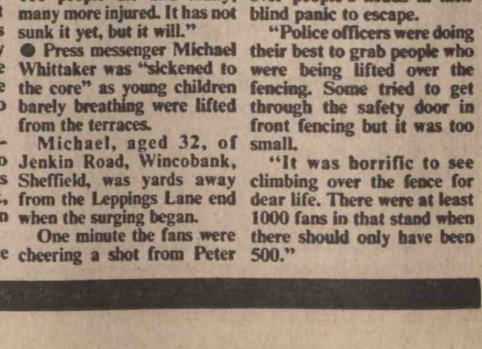
CHILDREN

"The surge began from the back of the terrace I think some had fans had come through the tunnel and started the gradual surge.

"I think some of the fans could have helped more of the children than they did. I saw kid's with blue faces gasping for air. They just trampled over people's heads in their blind panic to escape.

"Police officers were doing their best to grab people who were being lifted over the fencing. Some tried to get through the safety door in front fencing but it was too small.

"It was horrific to see climbing over the fence for dear life. There were at least 1000 fans in that stand when there should only have been 500."

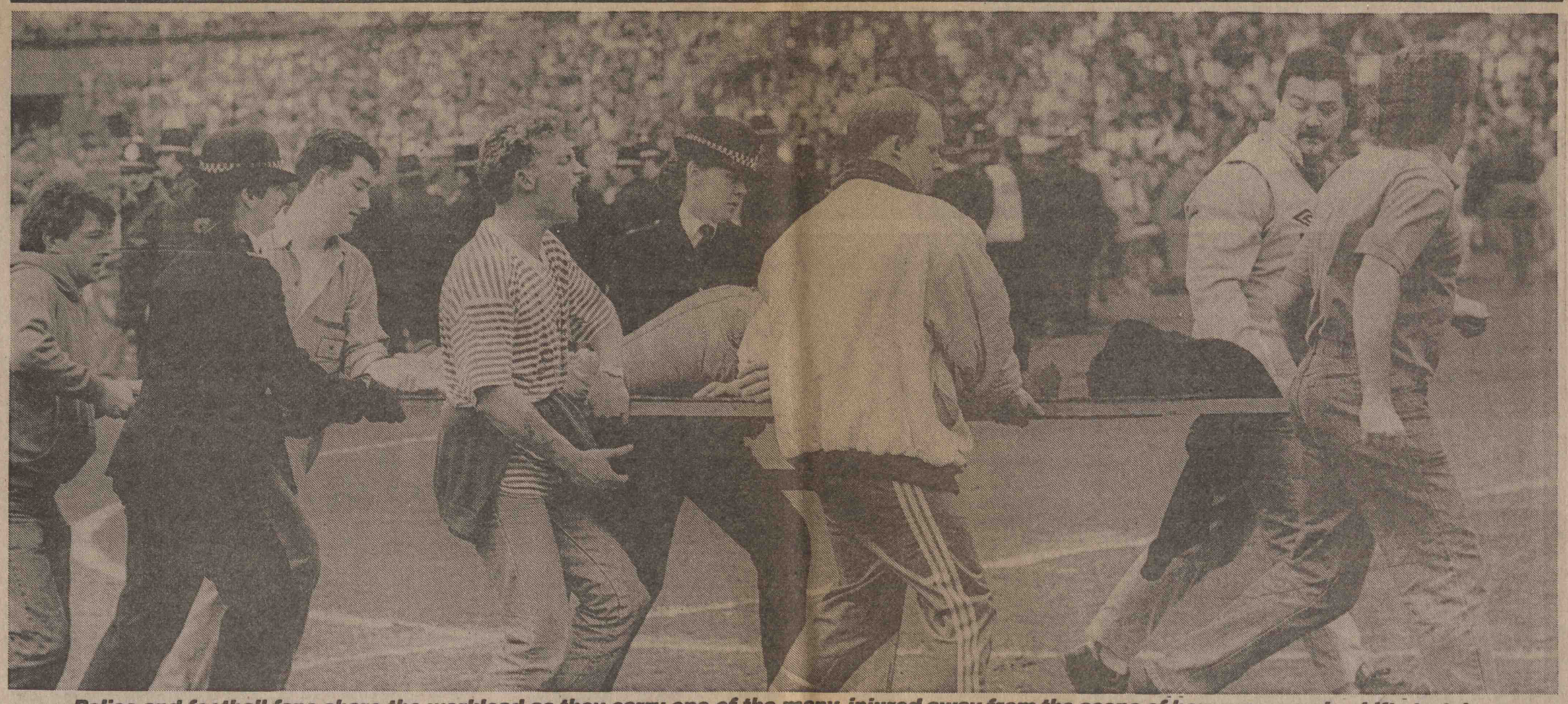


Steve Ellis – club photographer

Tense England manager Bobby Robson makes a point

Grim-faced Kenny Dalglish and Brian Clough in the aftermath of the tragic game

AFEM 19/2620

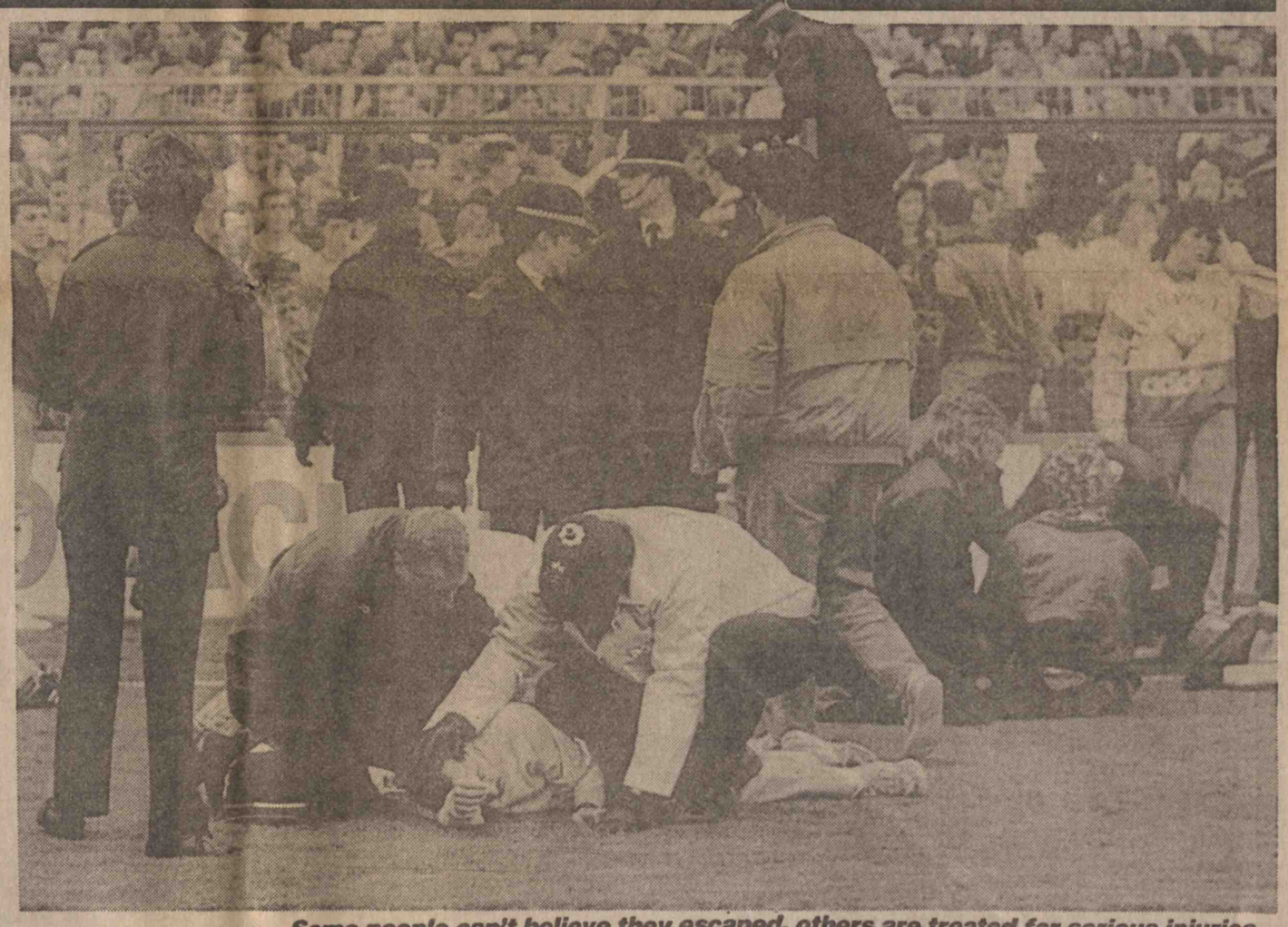


Police and football fans share the workload as they carry one of the many injured away from the scene of horror on a makeshift stretcher

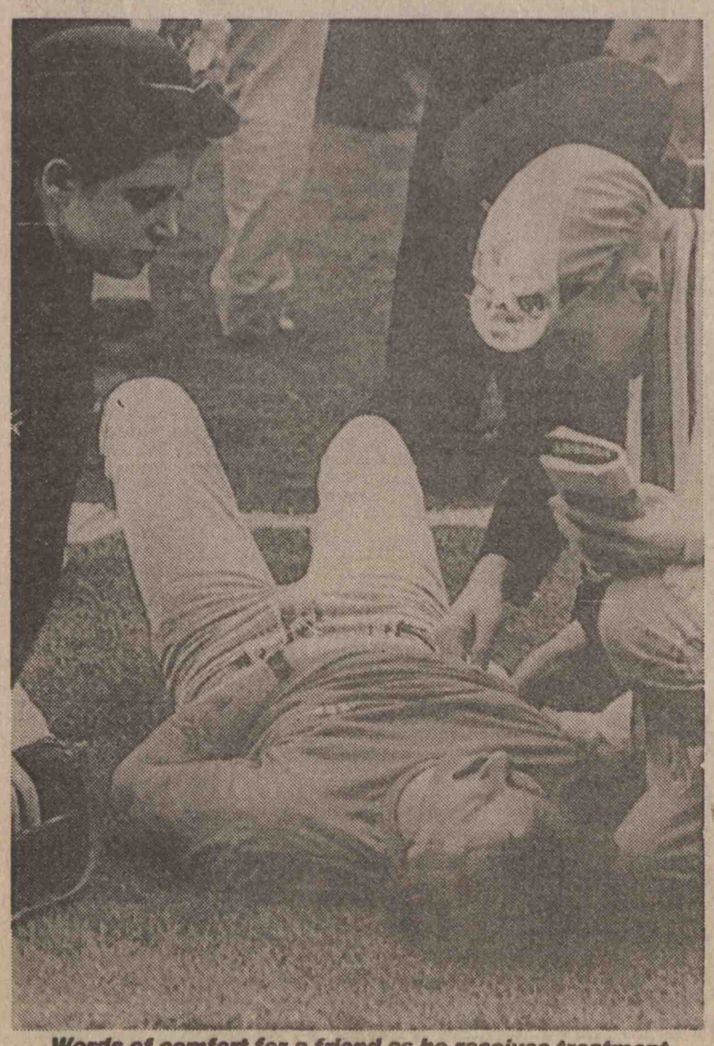
Supporters help with rescue amid the chaos and despair



One dazed man receives treatment from an ambulanceman and a fellow football fan



Some people can't believe they escaped, others are treated for serious injuries



Words of comfort for a friend as he receives treatment



The pain is obvious, but help is now at hand for for this injured fan



Stunned fans use a billboard hoarding as a makeshift stretcher

PREM 19/2620

ANGUISH, FEAR, IN THE



A policeman and a Liverpool spectator seek medical help for a fan

The boy went on the terrace to watch his favourite team, but now he lies in the arms of an anguished policeman.

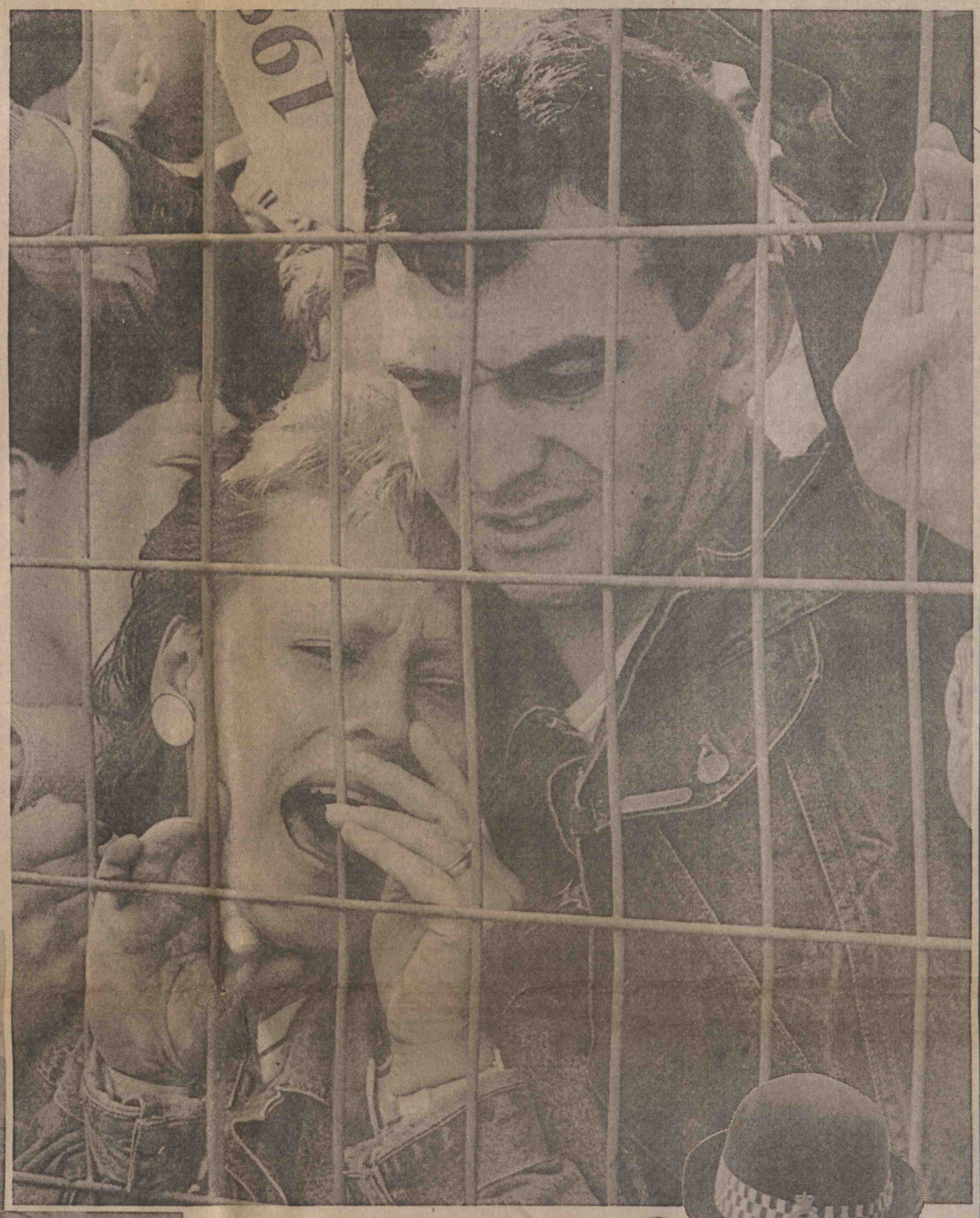
A policeman's anguish as he carries away a young victim

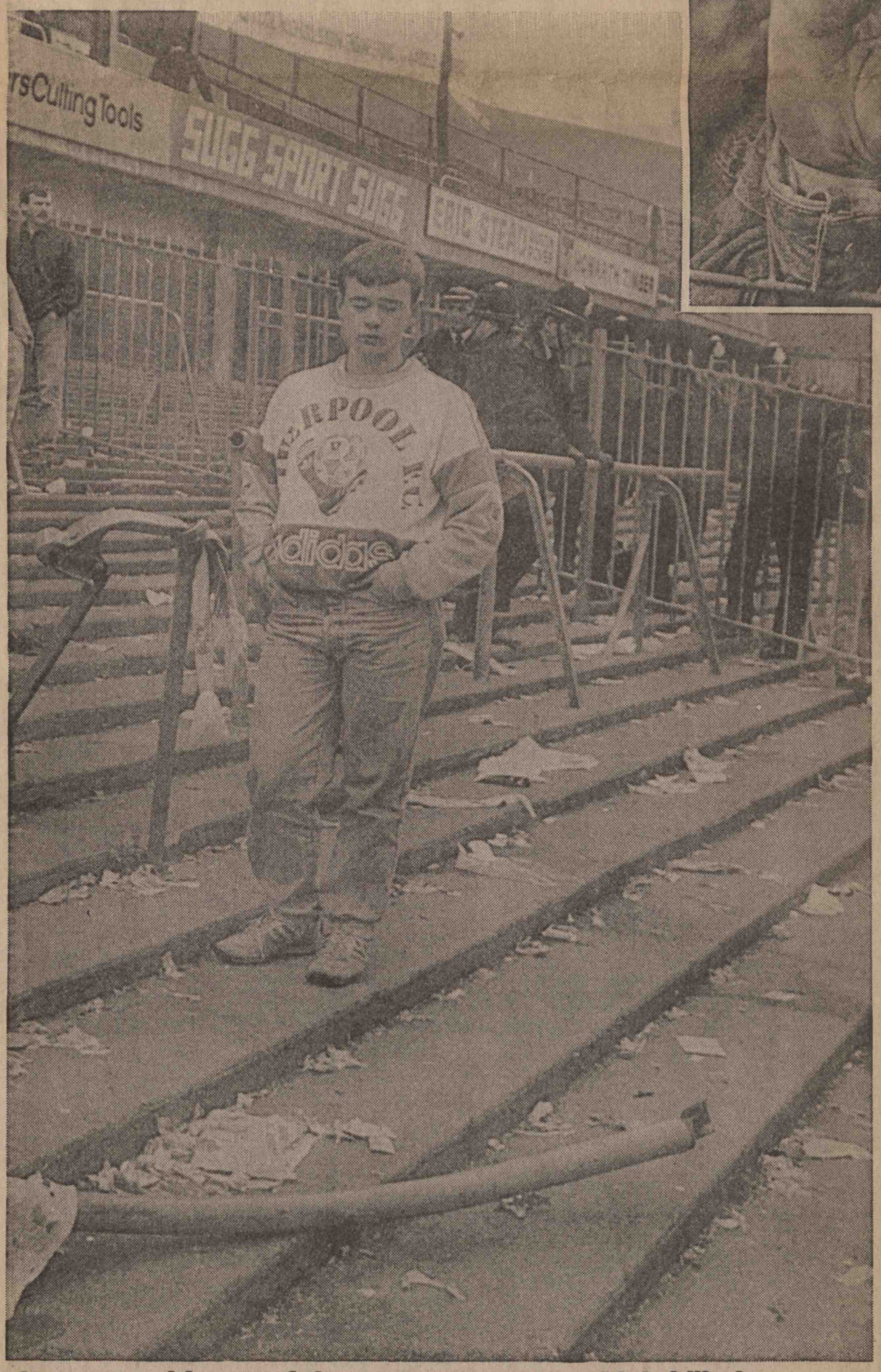
A crush barrier lies twisted and wrecked on the

HILLSBOROUGH HORROR



A Liverpool fan tends his injured mate





terrace, evidence of the pressure surge which killed so many



A young girl screams in terror as fans push her into the wire fence

A policewoman provides some comfort

PREM 19/2620

Queen's words for the injured



The Queen – Deepest sympathy to the bereaved families and those injured

THE Queen was among the first to offer words of sympathy to bereaved families and those who were injured.

In a message to the Lord Mayor of Sheffield yesterday evening, The Queen said: "I was shocked and saddened to hear of the tragedy at Hillsborough football ground this afternoon which caused such terrible loss of life."

The Lord Mayor, Mrs Phyllis Smith, said the city was "stunned" by the tragedy.

"Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the relatives of those who have very tragically lost their lives at Hillsborough.

"This terrible incident has hit Sheffield very hard. It is unbelievable."



Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher – Horrified by the terrible scenes

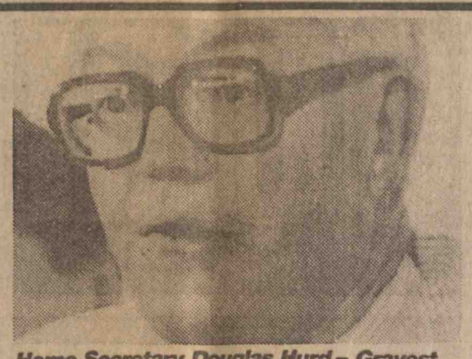
Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher told how she shared the nation's shock as she watched the Hillsborough horror unfold.

She was watching sport on TV during a quiet afternoon at Chequers and said she was horrified by the terrible scenes.

"Please give my deepest sympathy to the bereaved families and to all those who were injured."

Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, who called for a full report, expressed his "gravest concern and deepest sympathy" for the dead and injured and their relatives.

Cardinal Basil Hume: "I am stunned and saddened by the enormity of the tragedy at Hillsborough and feel deeply for the families which are now in such sorrow."



Home Secretary Douglas Hurd – Gravest concern and deepest sympathy

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said: "My heart goes out in sympathy and prayer for victims and their families, for the police and hospital teams."

SENSE OF HORROR

Labour leader Neil Kinnock said: "Everybody will feel the same sense of horror and deep sympathy with the families who have lost loved ones, and with the injured. Obviously we want to find the causes of this tragedy and learn the lessons from it as quickly as possible."

Paddy Ashdown, Social and Liberal Democrats LD (Democrats) leader, said: "We will be shocked at this terrible tragedy.

"Our first thoughts must be with the relatives and friends of the tragic victims. Our second must be to ensure that death never again joins crowds watching football on a Saturday afternoon."

Social and Liberal Democrats sports spokesman Menzies Campbell, MP for Fife North-East, expressed sympathy for the victims, called for "a full-scale and immediate inquiry into the cause of the accident", but warned against a "rush to judgment".

John Carlisle, chairman of the Conservative back-bench Sports Committee and MP for Luton North, said it would now be prudent for the Government to postpone in the short-term any further discussion on the Football Spectators Bill until the findings of a preliminary inquiry were known.

This would enable new clauses and amendments to be added on safety aspects.

"It would be foolish to carry on without hearing any lessons which might be learned from this tragedy," he added.

Sheffield MPs reacted with sadness, disbelief and a unified call for a full inquiry into the disaster tragedy.

Labour's David Blunkett, whose Brightside constituency includes the Sheffield Wednesday ground, described the news as a "terrible tragedy for all those involved, the clubs concerned and for the city of Sheffield."

'IT IS UNBELIEVABLE'

"I don't know just yet what happened but of course there is a need for immediate inquiry to what happened I am sure that will take place.'

"My heart goes out to all those who are bereaved or who are injured, together with my praise for those



An unconscious fan is carried to safety



Policemen tend to one of the many victims



Fans' scarves hanging from a railing add a poignant touch to the empty littered terrace



Injured Liverpool supporters lie prostrate on the Hillsborough pitch as friends and policemen try to bring some comfort

# of sympathy and bereaved

who worked so hard to help others."

His Labour colleague, Hillsborough MP Martin, Flannery said: "I am horrified. It is unbelievable. I have lived in Hillsborough and attended that ground all my life and I am overcome with what I have seen."

The MP said he had not been at the match but the details he had heard so far led him to believe that "somebody has been undoubtedly guilty of letting too many people into the ground. When I first heard about this tragedy the death toll was put at nine, and as I have listened to the news bulletins that has just gone up and up and up. I find it a dreadful and heartbreaking experience."

He too, demanded a public inquiry to be held as soon as possible to get to the bottom of what went wrong.

The city's only Conservative MP Irvine Patnick said he would be meeting sports Minister Colin Moynihan today for urgent discussions on what went wrong.

"I am also going to be putting down Parliamentary questions so that this terrible tragedy can be discussed on the floor of the House of Commons and the many questions people all over Britain will be asking can be answered."

TICKETS

The Hallam MP said he would also be planning a meeting with Peter Wright South Yorkshire's Chief Constable, to find out about the policing arrangements during the game.

"Quite obviously the police have been planning for this big match for a long time and Hillsborough is one of the premier ground in the country and particularly suited and designed for grand occasions such as this match should have been," he said.

"However, it appears that people have been getting in without tickets and have travelled to the match, as they so often do, with a slim hope of getting in to the game."

Mr Patnick said that while the Government's proposed identification card scheme would not have prevented Saturday's carnage it might have discouraged people turning up without tickets and would have also have made it easier for the authorities to reconstruct the events leading up to the deaths.

"What amazed me most of all is that nobody seemed to be speaking over the address system telling the crowd what was happening and the seriousness of the disaster. Surely something could have been done to communicate the need for calm and I shall be wanting to know why this did not happen."



Sheffield Lord Mayor Phyllis Smith – "It is unbelievable"



Brightside MP David Blunkett – Terrible tragedy for city of Sheffield



Hillsborough MP Martin Flannery – Overcome by scenes at the ground

Sheffield City Council's deputy leader, Coun Peter Price, said he was "stunned" and promised the council would do everything to help in the aftermath

HEYSEL TRAGEDY

"The whole of Sheffield will be grieving."

Liverpool City Council leader Kevan Coombes said: "I just feel stunned, like everyone else in Liverpool, by the situation.

"It hits a total cross section of Liverpool. People from every background, race and group in the city will have had a friend or loved one at the match — everyone had been talking about it for weeks."

Playwright Alan Beasdale, a lifelong Liverpool fan, vowed after the Heysel tragedy never to go to another soccer match.

"The proof of the pudding is that I'm not at Hillsborough," said the shocked writer. "I really can't comment on what's happened — I'm just too upset to talk about it."

A joint statement was issued by Roman Catholic Archbishop Derek Worlock, Anglican Bishop David Sheppard and Free Church moderator Dr John Newton.

"Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to all those who have lost members of their family and friends in the dreadful tragedy," said the statement.

David Kirkwood, secretary to Rev Gerald Moverley, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Sheffield said: "I am sure he would want to express his sympathy to the injured and his condolences to the families of those who have been killed."

WHEN HIGH SPIRITS TURNED TO HORROR

Debris of a day of death

And grown men wept openly in the streets

By John Highfield

IT WAS a day that began with excitement and friendly high spirits. It ended with scenes of horror and grief that the people of Hillsborough will never forget.

Football fans from Liverpool and Nottingham had been arriving since the morning. Locals reported a relaxed though exuberant atmosphere as the roads around the ground began to get busier.

Within minutes of the kick-off the mood changed. Tragedy struck and confused and frightened fans began to pour on to the pitch in an attempt to escape the disaster around them.

The whole area around the ground was thrown into chaos as the massive operation of rescuing the injured began.

Advertising hoardings were ripped from the edge of the pitch to create make-shift stretchers for men, women and children too badly hurt to move.

Shoes missing

In the walkways behind the West stand, police and emergency services attempted to cope with a situation which nobody could have anticipated.

Men wept openly, too confused to explain what had just happened, their friends lying on the ground unconscious.

Some, in obvious pain, their clothes ripped and their shoes missing, cried out for help.

Others stood dazed and in shock, unable to comprehend the horrifying scenes before them as ambulances made their way through the crowds.

Just as distressing, though, were the people who had been separated from family and friends in the crush.

Men who had been swept out of the ground in the crowd of people heading for the exits begged with police officers to be allowed back in.

A middle-aged woman cried as she explained that she had lost her husband and two teenage daughters and had no idea whether they had escaped or were lying among the injured.

Outside, all main roads leading to the ground were blocked off to clear a way for the fleets of ambulances, fire engines and police cars which flooded into the area, sirens sounding out across Hillsborough well into the early evening.

Fans who had managed to escape uninjured, congregated about the gates, trying to work out what had gone wrong.

"It was only when blokes started to break the advertising boards off to carry their mates away that the police seemed to realise what was happening," said Vinnie Kean, of Liverpool.

"You could see what was going to happen but you couldn't do anything about it."

His friend Jamie Dalrimple told how he had seen people crushed underfoot as the crowd swelled forward, unable to stop.

"There was just nowhere to go," he said. "There were just too many people there."

Business people and residents around the ground opened their doors to people who just wanted to phone home and let people know they were safe and well.

"I have seen grown men crying today," said Wadsley Lane sweetshop owner Dorothy Kelly. "All people wanted to do was get to a phone. I have never seen anything like it."

Madeleine Shaw, who lives a few doors away, explained: "I saw people with their jeans ripped and their shoes missing, wandering about in a daze. I feel sick with it all."

Neighbour Annette Hitchens added: "I fetched some people in because they were in such a state of shock. I gave them a cup of tea while one girl rang her mum to say they were all right.

Hillsborough Park Side School caretaker Audrey Bull told how she saw the disaster on television and then became aware of the ambulance sirens and the noise of people moving about Leppings Lane.

Janice Paramore, of the Four Lanes Cafe in Leppings Lane, said she had been inundated with people using the phone.

"We had one little lad in who could have been no more than 15 who had lost all his mates in it all," she said. "The last we saw he was heading off to the Midland Station alone."

Far Lane grocer Chris Lane said: "It was going to be a great day. The sun was shining and they were all full of it but they came back crying, grown men in a state of real shock. It is just beyond comprehension."



Police hats, discarded as officers rushed to the assistance of trapped and injured fans, lie in a pile in front of the stand where so many died



The belongings of dead and injured fans are packed into plastic bags and cleared away after the disaster

Pub songs replaced by tears

LANDLORD Peter Buck, whose pub was overwhelmed by Liverpool fans, told how they showed him complete tickets — suggesting they were allowed into the ground without being checked.

And he heard one man telephone his mum and describe how he saw an eight-year-old boy die in front of him, despite desperate attempts to pull him from the crowd.

When the fans managed to escape the ground, they went to the Fox pub, in Fox Hill Road, Fox Hill, Sheffield, to make tearful phone back home assuring relatives they were safe.

Many paced about, separated from their friends, wondering whether their pals were alive or dead.

'Why us?'

Before the match, they had filled they pub and sat outside, singing happily in the sun. There had been no hint of trouble, despite 96 barrels of lager being drunk and a similar about of beer. Only five glasses were broken all day — and all by accident.

Mr Buck said: "When they left, they were so happy and really looking forward to a good game. A lot of them left their cars here and came back. They were in tears. No-one could believe what had happened.

"We had been closed by the police, but I opened up again so they could use the phone and ring their families. After the relief came the anger. Loads of them showed me their tickets. The stubs had not been taken off.

"They said the police just opened the gates and they all flooded in. They were saying: 'Why us, why us? Not again'."

"They reckon the authorities will try to dump the blame on them, but they will not let that happen to them again."

PREM 19/2620

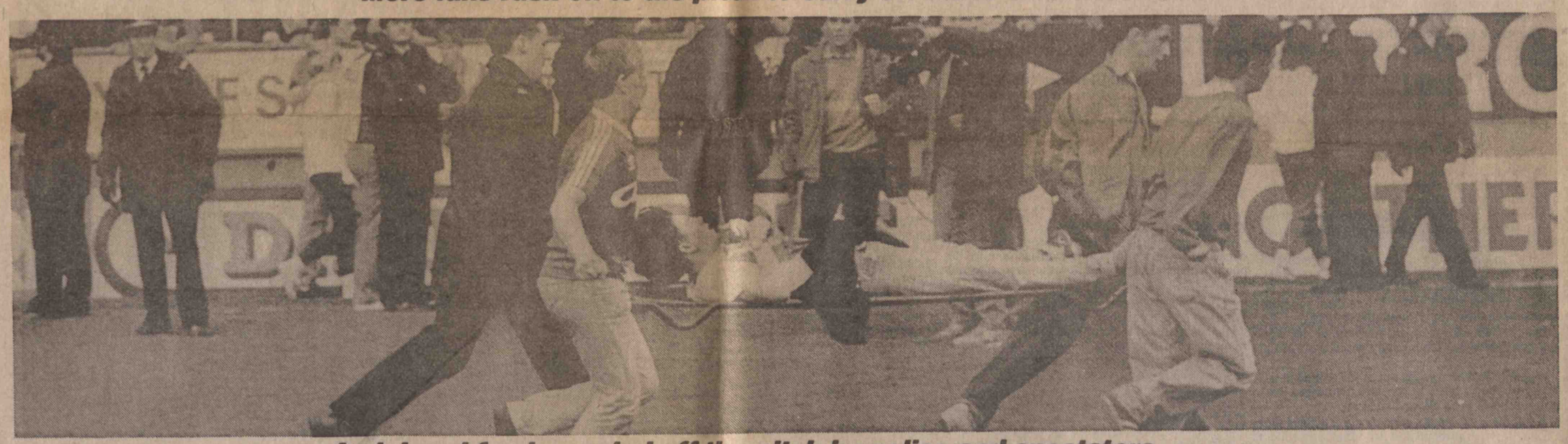


Fans rush to help their fallen friends

Fans tear down a sign to make a stretcher for the injured



More fans rush on to the pitch to carry off those who were hurt



An injured fan is carried off the pitch by police and spectators

Big relief operation underway

THE people of Sheffield turned out in force to help provide assistance to fans still suffering from shock hours after the disaster.

Hundreds of friends and relatives travelled from Liverpool on hearing of the tragedy.

Social workers, Samaritans, Salvation Army members, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, church leaders and members of the general public took over Hillsborough Boys' Club as police co-ordinated a massive relief operation from the centre.

They provided soup, drinks and food for fans who were still dazed by the afternoon's ordeal.

And they set about the major task of helping relatives and friends get information about the missing and injured.

People throughout the city were also calling in to offer accommodation to those who needed to stay overnight.

There were even offers to drive families back to their Liverpool homes.

Sheffield Social Services set up a counselling service for grieving relatives and friends at the Boys Club.

People were also being counselled at the Royal Hallamshire and Northern General hospitals, and at Hammerton Road police station, near the ground, by the city's social workers, hospital chaplains, psychologists and members of Cruse, a counselling organisation for widows and children.

Social workers from Liverpool and other parts of the country, including those involved in the M1 plane disaster, rang in offering help and advice.

"The response has been tremendous," said a spokesman for the service.

Giving comfort and support was the main priority as counsellors took names and addresses of those involved for follow-up work.

Derek Nuttall, a leading member of Cruse, was travelling from London to liaise with local bereavement groups. He was also due to meet the Director of Social Services, Neil Kay, to discuss the longer-term implications.

A Liverpool City Council spokesman said talks had already begun about setting up a joint Liverpool-Nottingham-Sheffield appeal for the victims' families.

And plans were announced for a special requiem mass at 6pm today at Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral.

The Samaritans said they had answered dozens of calls.



Stunned beyond belief — fans wept openly

Tears and blood are shed on the casualty wards

THE full horror of the tragedy became clear as the first casualties arrived at Sheffield's Northern General Hospital.

A convoy of ambulances screamed to a halt outside.

One man in his thirties was carried inside, a trainer shoe missing, dirt scouring his clothes.

He groaned as an oxygen mask was placed over his mouth. His eyes briefly flickered open then he lapsed into unconsciousness.

Another fan — pale white white and unconscious — was carried from the same ambulance.

As soon as he emerged from the dark interior, resuscitation equipment was unceremoniously plonked to his chest and he was swept into hospital, a team of hospital doctors and nurses around him.

Another fan came from the same ambulance, blood dripping from a head wound. He too was unconscious.

"Where are we taking chest injuries?" shouted a medic alongside a stretcher, but his voice was instantly drowned by the growing drone of sirens as more ambulances arrived.

"All right love? Are you all right?" asked a nurse leaning over a stretcher carrying a young man, in his 20s. He was obviously not all right. But he nodded, not wanting to be rude and tried to smile, but he could not speak. He had a crushed chest.

Then an police van roared into the hospital with walking wounded.

Scouse accents flooded the air as they asked after their friends, their relatives.

One teenage lad was crying as he walked away from the hospital.

"I have to get back to the ground. Which way to the ground?" he asked. "I must find my cousin. I think he's dead."

Two police officers went up to him and helped him to a police car and drove away.

Then a young couple, dressed in denims, appeared from inside the hospital.

They shuddered with grief, unable to speak and walked away from the Northern General Hospital.

Yet another fan was loaded from an ambulance to a stretcher, surrounded by medics, his mate holding up a drip bag feeding lift into him.

Inside the packed casualty area, 28-year-old Liverpool fan Tom Bailey held his head in his hands as he waited for news of a seriously injured friend.

Tom, his red and white scarf blackened by the dirt of Hillsborough, said: "I was outside the gate and everyone was just pushing and heaving. Then, when the match kicked off, there was a massive shove and we just got jammed.

"The police are to blame. They opened the gates. Everyone fell through.

"It was hot and sweaty and everyone was moaning then everything went forward."

Tom, from Shrewsbury, added: "Next thing I knew, they dragged us into this massive sports hall. One side was for the injured. The other side for the dead.

"It was a morgue and I counted dozens of bodies laying there."

Sheffield teenager Jason Graham battled for 30 minutes giving the kiss of life to a stranger who, he later learned, was dead.

Jason, of Knutton Crescent, Parson Cross, spoke at the hospital where he had waited for two hours before being told the shattering news that his efforts had been in vain.

He said: "He was only about 25 years old. He was still. He had been crushed. So I started giving him the kiss of life at the ground and they even asked me to carry on in the ambulance on the way to hospital.

Purple

"He must have been dead all the time. But I didn't care. I would have done anything if I could have brought him back to life."

Liverpool fan Ian Turner, from Wiltshire, found himself in the midst of the horror. One man still standing in the crowd alongside him was clearly dead.

He said: "People were lying everywhere. It was bodies on top of bodies, their faces purple. I saw 30 people in front of me who were dead. A lot were lying down on the floor of the terraces — just like Heysel. I had to crawl out on my knees.

"I was carried two feet off the ground, trapped.

"A young girl had her head buried inside this man's leather jacket and she just could not breathe. I tried to move her, but I was just jammed.

"There was one bloke and he was just purple. I was slapping him. It was no good.

"There was a girl of about nine or ten who, I think, was dead. And another man said he watched his mate die right in front of him. But he couldn't move to help."

He laid the blame for the enormous tragedy firmly at the door of South Yorkshire police. He said: "The police are to blame for this. They were pushing the people through and area with five turnsiles. But there were people on top of the turnstiles trying to jump off.

"They let all those people in without tickets. And there were thousands of people just running into this one gate. It was chaos.

As news of the Hillsborough disaster spread members of the public began arriving at the Northern General Hospital offering help.

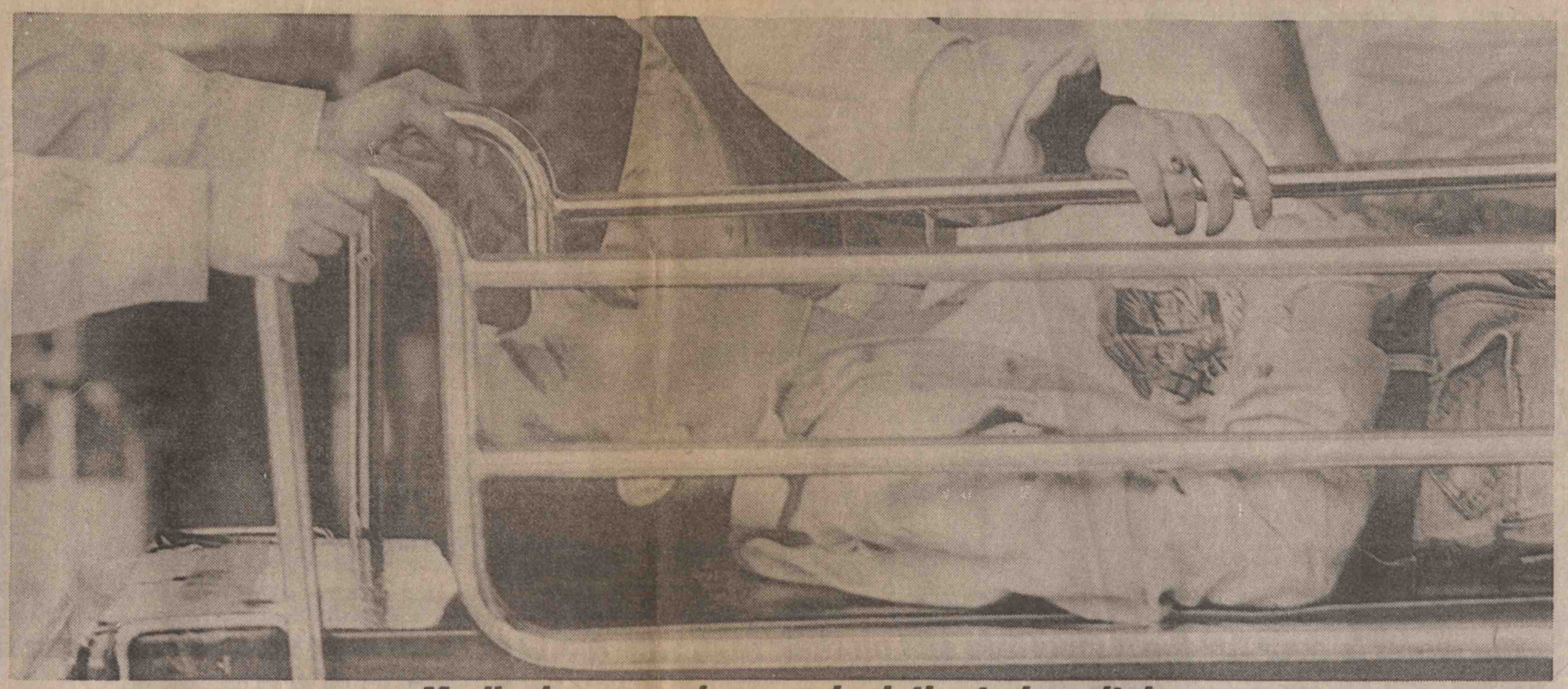
Clergymen of all denominations were touring the emergency wards and intensive care unit, some giving the last rites to dying victims, others offering words of solace to the walking wounded.

Social workers and disaster experts were congregating at Hammerton Road police station to form a special counselling team for the bereaved and injured.

Northern General Hospital general service manager John Adams praised hospital staff for their work.

PREM 19/2620

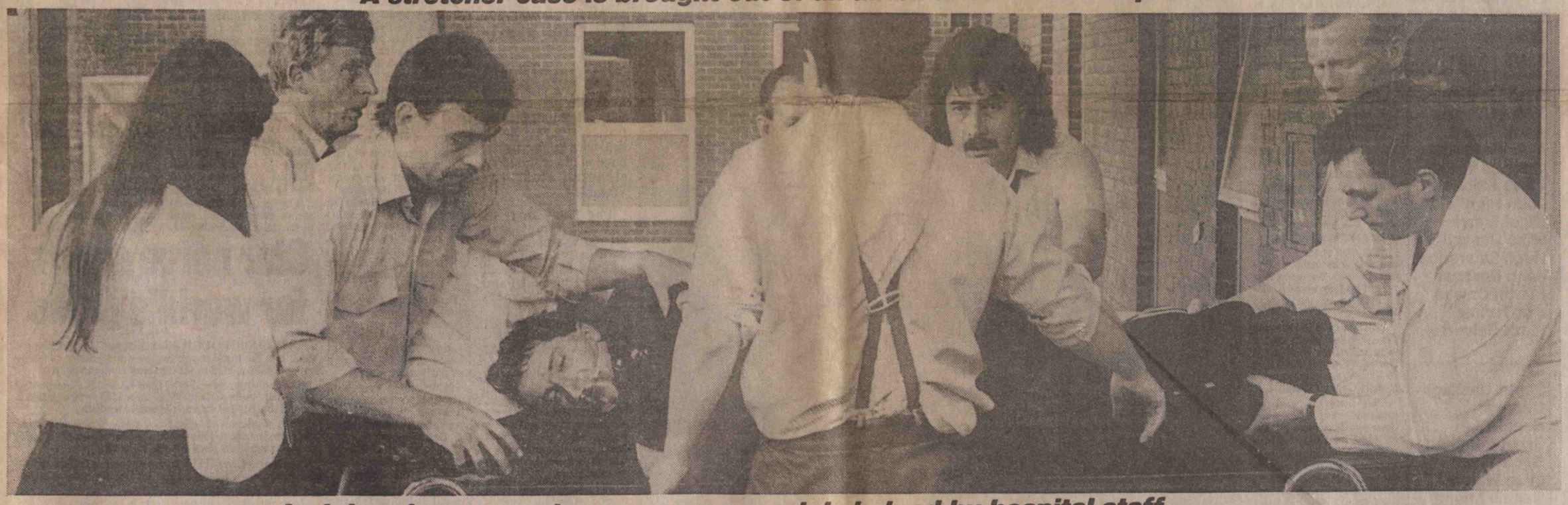
Medics give their best for the victims



Medical men rush a crush victim to hospital



A stretcher case is brought out of an ambulance at the hospital



An injured man wearing an oxygen mask is helped by hospital staff

I'm going to suffocate – fan Kevin, 15



Injured treating the injured . . . Bloody doctor Glyn Phillips battled through his own pain to treat fans who had been badly hurt. Dr Phillips, of East Kilbride, is a keen Liverpool supporter who was at Hillsborough hoping to cheer the Reds towards the Cup Final

FIFTEEN-year-old Kevin Hall wandered around the corridors of the Royal Hallamshire Hospital's casualty department.

He was desperately searching the sea of faces for a friend he had lost.

And he came close to tears as he described how he nearly lost his own life in what was his first away match.

"I thought I was going to suffocate. There were thousands of bodies behind me pushing and shoving, but I couldn't escape — my leg was trapped under a metal bar.

"It was frightening, really frightening. I thought I was going to suffocate, but other fans nearby held my head up and shouted to me to stay calm.

"People in front of me were falling over as they tried to push back. It was worse than pushing back against a brick wall.

"I nearly passed out, but then, when I thought I'd had it, people started clearing away, and I was hurt but I at least I could breath again."

But he found his friend, 16-year-old Peter Oliver, had suffered more serious injuries. He watched as Peter was lifted into an ambulance and taken to hospital where he was rushed into the casualty department to be treated for a wound to his leg.

Badly bruised

There, the two boys, both from Tuesbrook in Liverpool, became separated in the confusion.

Kevin, who only got his ticket for the match on Friday night, went on: "It was the old men and the really young lads I feel sorry for now. Those who were at the front didn't stand a chance."

Sixteen-year-old Ian Clarke, who was nursing badly bruised ribs, leg and shoulder, said: "It was absolutely ridiculous. People were trying to escape by climbing on to the pitch, but the police were forcing them back into the stand.

"It was ten minutes before they realised what was happening. For ten minutes people at the front were being crushed to death while the police were letting more and more people in.

"There were at least 200 with tickets still outside the ground at the start of the match — but there just wasn't enough room on the stand and no-one could see that.

"It was horrific. There were about 20 people knocked down in front of me obviously dead, but we couldn't get away. With the police pushing people back behind the barriers there was just no-where to go.

"I'll never forget it."

Action stations as medics respond to disaster call

WITHIN minutes of the tragedy the emergency plan at Sheffield's Royal Hallamshire Hospital was in full swing.

Off-duty medical staff flooded through its doors, ready to put into action what proved to be a swift and efficient disaster procedure.

Eight of the hospital's 14 operating theatres and the orthopaedic unit immediately adjacent were set aside for casualties, who began to arrive just before 3.30pm.

Over the next three hours the hospital admitted 80 injured people, some seriously — one died. The hospital was expecting another 20 would be admitted throughout the night.

Blood was brought in from the Regional Blood Transfusion Service, which is based in Sheffield, and the hospital switchboard took hundreds of calls from willing donors.

Comfort

Hospital administrator Marie Butler said although the BTS had enough to cope with the tragedy, donors would be required next week to replenish stocks.

She added: "Fortunately the hospital's blood supplies are well-stocked."

The volume of patients was so great that at 6.30pm, there were still eight patients waiting to go into theatre.

The injuries varied. If they had cuts and bruises, patients were considered lucky. Many had broken limbs. But most had been crushed and suffocated.

Hospital chaplains offered words of comfort to those waiting to be treated. Their presence was keenly felt as they sat with stretcher and wheelchair patients, holding their hands, doing what they could to relieve their suffering.

Assistant parish priest Father Brian Gowans from St Marie's said: "We came here as soon as we got news of the tragedy. We are providing a listening service and helping ease the pain."

Anxious

He said many of the patients arriving at hospital were in deep shock.

"I have spoken to man in his early 20s who cannot remember his name. He kept saying: "Father I am dying, help me."

"One woman was looking for her husband — she didn't know if he was dead or injured."

Neighbouring clergy were called upon to help comfort relatives of the dead and injured, and they took hundreds of calls from local people offering people beds for the night.

Said health authority spokesman Derek Hull: "The public have been marvellous. I am sure no-one went without a bed."

At the hospital the outpatients department was set aside for family and friends, and Red Cross volunteers arrived to offer refreshments to those waiting for news of loved ones.

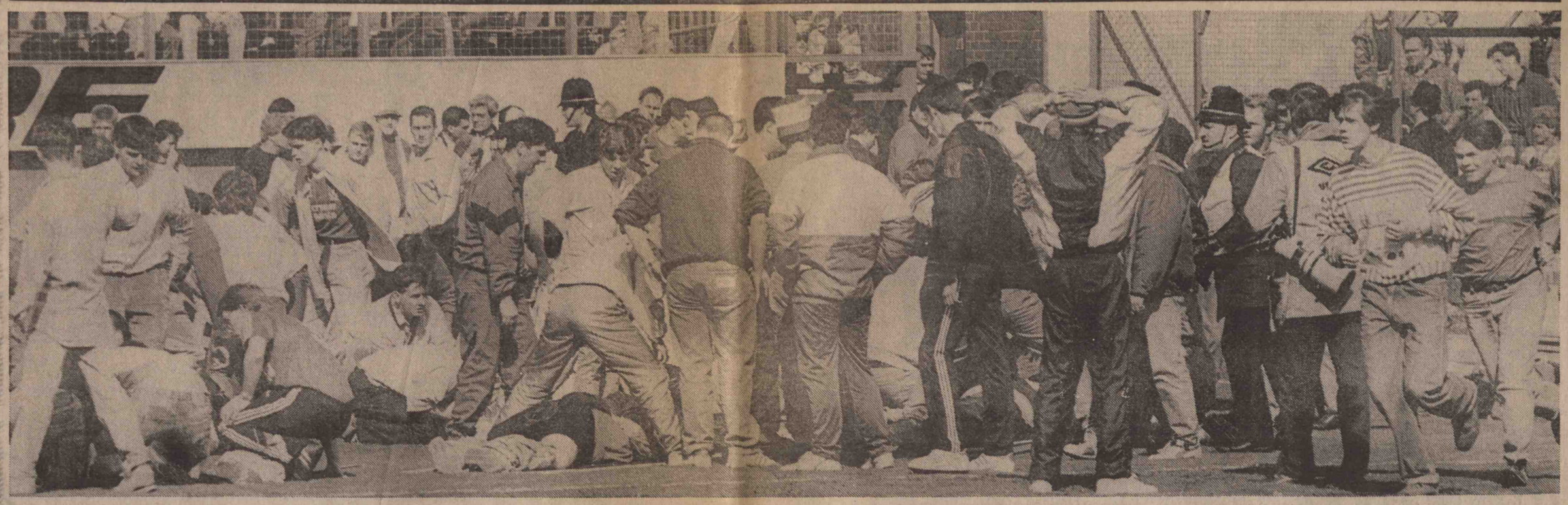
Horror

Those who had been treated for cuts, bruises and shock, filtered through from the casualty deparment into the hospital's main reception area where they queued for telephones to call anxious relatives back home.

Some were in tears, many were in shock. Lads of 14 and men of 40 cried together as they described the scene of horror to their wives, girlfriends and parents.

Hospital administrator Miss Butler said she felt the hospital — which was kept busy all through the night — appeared to have coped very well with what turned out to be the city's worst disaster since the war.

PREM 19/2620



The worst is over for the supporters still on their feet, with many of them now doing all they can to help injured friends

Appeal to replace blood supplies

SHEFFIELD'S Blood Transfusion Service today appealed for donors to come forward at sessions this week to replace blood which was used to treat injured victims of the football ground disaster.

Haemotologist Katy Forman said that although there was no blood shortage to treat the injured, donations would be required to replace blood for weekly hospital use in the city this coming week.

She said that hundreds of people had called the Service after hearing news of the soccer tragedy, wanting to know if blood donations were required of them.

"We had hundreds and hundreds of calls from people wanting to give blood. Something like this, at a time like this, restores your faith in humanity — we want to thank everyone who offered to help. At one stage we had six people manning the phones to deal with all the calls," she said.

"But we didn't need any extra blood donations. We had more than enough in storage. However, we will need people to come forward to give blood, to replace that which was used, at our weekly sessions this week.

"Those donors may have lengthy waits because we are expecting quite a few people along. We ask them to be patient and bear with us.

"We used about 120 units and usually have about 1,000 units in stock. But it was that type of tragedy where people either died or didn't need blood.

"Blood was sent out to the three hospitals where injured were taken — Sheffield's Northern General and Royal Hallamshire, and to Barnsley District General Hospital."

Only three Liverpool fan casualties were take to the Barnsley. They were treared for minor injuries and shock.

● Blood donation sessions will be held at Westfield House, Division Street, Sheffield, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 10am to 12.15pm, 2pm to 3.15pm and 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

Stories:
Martin Ross
Peter Kay
Paul License
Robert Taylor
Andy Waple
Bob Westerdale
Graham Walker
Linsey McNeill
John Highfield
Nigel Morris
Mike Russell
Hugh Lawrence
John Spencer
Martin Dawes
Jan Turner
Mark Calvert

Pictures:
Stuart Hastings
George Heppinstall
Brian Vaughan
Geoff Tyrer
Mike Waistell
Dennis Lound
Steve Ellis



Anguish of a fan witnessing death at close quarters

Hillsborough's reputation as the Wembley of the North

FOR years Hillsborough has been a regular choice for FA Cup semi-finals.

Its magnificent facilities for spectators and players, coupled with a tried and tested police operation to deal with huge crowds, have made it the ideal stepping stone for Wembley.

The first semi at Sheffield Wednesday's ground was played way back in 1912. An international fixture between England and Scotland followed eight years later.

A steady flow of semis were allocated to Hillsborough after the Second World War.

But it was a string of World Cup matches in 1966, played in front of the superb cantilever north stand (opened in 1961) and a new west stand at the Leppings Lane end, that established the venue on an international stage.

The stadium built up a reputation as the Wembley of the North with Wednesday fans complaining that too much was being spent on the ground and too little on their team.

The Football Association readily staged the big matches in Sheffield 6 in the knowledge that here was a stadium with officials and a local police force that could cope with any occasion.

Even when football hooliganism was at its height a few years ago, very little trouble was to be found in and around Hillsborough.

Strict segregation of fans and, more recently, the introduction of video cameras, were used by police

When they announced the Liverpool-Forest semi would be held for the second year running in Sheffield, there were protests from Liverpool that Manchester would be the more appropriate location

Fans reading the official match programme before yesterday's tragedy were told, quite simply, by Wednesday chairman Bert McGee that Hillsborough was the 'perfect venue.'

He welcomed back both sets of supporters, recalling "It was a joy last year to have you here contesting an FA Cup semi-final and I was delighted when I heard the news that you would be making a prompt return."

He went on: "As you look around Hillsborough you will appreciate why it has been regarded for so long as the perfect venue for all kinds of important matches."

Statistics were given as evidence of Hillsborough's reputation. In 1959 and 1963, Liverpool and Forest were involved in matches attracting crowds of 65,000. By 1980, attendances had been restricted to just over 50,000.

But the building of a £1 million roof, a massive blue steel structure, over the Kop in 1986 further enhanced the ground's reputation and bumped up to the crowd limit to 54,000.

The ground improvements even received royal approval on December 12, 15, 1989, with a visit from the Queen.

The Bradford City disaster had its repercussions at Hillsborough. Before the start of the the 1985/86 season, three months after the Bradford fire, Wednesday had installed a sophisticated insulation system in parts of the north and south stands, making it, they said, one of the safest of all Britain's football grounds.

And from now on, Hillsborough's glorious past will be totally overshadowed by the tragedy that struck its terraces on Saturday, April 15, 1989.

Star nerve centre for world's press

THE HILLSBOROUGH disaster turned The Star's newsroom into the nerve centre for the world's media as international calls poured in for the latest news and figures.

Starting with regional calls from Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds and Nottingham, the scale expanded as foreign desks around the globe picked up the horror statistics.

Wire services and newsdesks from Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire made The Star's Sheffield 767676 number the hottest press point in the country.

The Italian Consul in Liverpool was among the first to ask for information, followed by a leading Argentinian newspaper in Buenos Aires.

Most persistent were newspapers in Dublin because of the Irish links with Liverpool. Reporter Linsey McNeill found herself brushing up on her French to do a live interview with the top radio news service in Paris.



A policewoman kneels over the body of an injured man



An injured Liverpool fan lies on the pitch, tended to by policemen and a friend



Helmets discarded by police at the centre of the drama

PREM 19/2620



Liverpool fans climb the terraces in a frenzied effort



A helping hand for fans clambering to safety



A woman is comforted



An injured fan lies on the pitch surrounded by helpers and friends

Blackest day in football's bloody history

HILLSBOROUGH has now earned itself a macabre place in soccer's blackest history book.

Yesterday's disaster was the bloodiest in the game's British history.

But tragedy is no stranger to the football grounds of the world.

Before yesterday, the two worst disasters in one season in British soccer occured at the end of the 1984-85 campaign.

On May 11, 1985, the last Saturday of the league seaspn, 56 people were burned to death and more than 200 taken to hospital when fire destroyed the main stand at the Bradford-Lincoln match at Bradford's Valley Parade.

Blazing

The wooden 77-year-old stand was full for City's last fixture when fire broke out just before half time. Within five minutes, the entire stand was blazing.

Eighteen days later, at the European Cup Final between Liverpool and Juventus at the Heysel Stadium, Brussels, 39 spectators — all but five of them Italians — were crushed or trampled to death.

The disaster occured an hour before the scheduled kick-off, when Liverpool supporters charged a Juventus section of the crowd at the end of the stadium. Under pressure, a containing wall collapsed.

On May 26 the same year, 10 people were trampled to death and 29 seriously hurt in a crowd panic on the way into the Olympic Stadium, Mexico City, for the Mexican Cup Final.

More than 100 people died and 300 were injured in a disaster at Nepal's national stadium in Katmandu on December 12, 1988, after a stampede when a violent hailstorm broke over the capital. Spectators rushed for cover, but the stadium exits were locked.

More than 300 people were killed and at least 500 injured in a riot over a disallowed goal at the national stadium in Lima, Peru, in May, 1964, when Argentina and Peru were competing for a place in the Tokyo Olympics.

Until yesterday, Britain's worst soccer disaster was when Rangers took on Celtic in a New Year's match on January 2, 1971, at Rangers' Ibrox ground.

Sixty-six people were trampled to death as they tumbled down a stairway at the ground.

That tragedy even eclipsed a disaster on March 9, 1942, at Bolton, where 33 people were killed and about 500 injured when a wall and crowd barriers collapsed at the Bolton-v-Stoke FA Cup sixth-round tie.

In a previous Ibrox diaster, on April 5, 1902, part of the terracing collapsed during the Scotland-v-England international and 25 people died. The match was finally continued, but never counted as an official international.

There have also been terrible disasters which have claimed the lives of soccer players themselves.

Eight leading Manchester United players and three officials — along with eight newspaper representatives — were among those who perished in the Munich air crash on February 6, 1958, during take-off.

On May 15, 1949, the entire team of Italian champions Torino died when their aircraft crashed near Turin.

And on December 9, 1987, the 18-strong team of Peru's top team, Alianza Lima, died — along with eight officials and several youth players — when their aircraft crashed in the sea 10 miles from Lima.

'Experts' bring comfort when tragedy strikes

SOCIAL workers at Bradford, where 56 people died when fire ripped through the city football club in 1985, are standing by to help with the massive task of trauma and bereavement counselling in Sheffield.

The team of experienced "disaster" workers have already advised teams of social workers involved in the Zeebrugge ferry sinking, Hungerford massacre, Pipa Alpha oil rig explosion, Enniskillen killings, Kings Cross fire and Lockerbie air disaster.

Within two hours of news of the Hillsborough disaster breaking, Bradford Social Services chief John Crook was in touch with local emergency workers to say: "If you need us, we're here."

With experience of helping in the aftermath of the country's worst tragedies, the Bradford team can offer much in the way of help and advice.

John Crook told The Star last night: "Every disaster is different, but where we can help through what we have learned from our own experience and through our own mistakes, we are only to willing to do so.

Mistakes

"One of our first mistakes was to believe the people who suffered the most horrible injuries suffered the greatest psychological problems. In fact, it is often people who have had minor injuries who have the most significant problems."

And he said that people who had survived such a disaster were often wracked with guilt. "By the very act of surviving, they feel they may not have done enough to help those less fortunate than themselves. That because they got out, someone else didn't. People expect quite unreasonable actions of themselves."

Counselling the huge numbers of bereaved relatives and those injured at Hillsborough would be a long term task, he said.

"The response has to be reletively long term. People are affected by these things for as much as one or two years and if you are providing support, you have got to be prepared to follow it up for at least a year.

"Large scale disasters like this can be more difficult to get over than individual tragedies, not least because they are so unexpected. People don't go along to a football ground anticipating something as terrible as this. The scale of things seems to create an anger and disillusionment and need to find someone responsible. It also affects a whole community.

Heartache

"People remember disasters very differently and those involved need to be aware that getting over them can take a lot of time and heartache.

"The vast majority of people have the resources and strength to come through, but they often need plenty of reassurance to do so. Talking events through over and over again for many months is a common reaction. Some people may become withdrawn, others will suffer from sleep disturbances.

"But these reactions are all common and as long as people know they are not on their own in feeling like this, they will come through in the end."

Mem 19/2620

THE END OF A TRAGIC DAY



The aftermath! Amongst the rubble and ruins a shattered Liverpool fan sinks his head in his hands and cries in disbelief



An eerie quiet descends on the stadium as just a few supporters remain along with police and emergency teams

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T776/89

SUBJECT ec OPS
MASTER

Courtesy Translation

15th April 1989

Message
from
Herr Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the
Federal Republic of Germany
to
Her Excellency The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Dear Prime Minister, dear Margaret,

It is with great distress that I received the news about the tragic disaster which has happened in Sheffield this afternoon.

Please convey my deepest sympathy to the bereaved families.

My sincere wishes for a speedy recovery go to all those injured.

Yours sincerely,
Helmut Kohl
Chancellor of the
Federal Republic of Germany

15. April 1989

Botschaft
von
Herrn Helmut Kohl
Bundeskanzler der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
an
Ihre Exzellenz
Frau Margaret Thatcher
Premierminister des Vereinigten Königreichs
Grossbritannien und Nordirland

Sehr verehrte Frau Kollegin, liebe Margaret,

mit grosser Betroffenheit habe ich die Nachricht über das tragische Unglück aufgenommen, das sich heute nachmittag in Sheffield erreignet hat.

Ich bitte Sie, den Angehörigen der Toten mein tiefes Mitgefühl zu übermitteln.

Den Verletzten gelten meine besten Genesungswünsche.

Ihr
Helmut Kohl
Bundeskanzler der
Bundesrepublik Deutschland

EMBASSY OF BELGIUM

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. TTa/89

Brussels, 15th April 1989.

SUBJECT
& MASTER
OPS.

Dear Prime Minister,

I am deeply shocked by today's football tragedy and the extend of the loss of human lives.

On behalf of the Belgian Government and of the Belgian people, I would like to express my sincere sympathy with the victims of this tragedy and their families.

Yours sincerely,

W. Martens,
Prime Minister.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, M.P.

MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT HON MRS MARGARET THATCHER MP FRS

FROM THE TAOISEACH, MR CHARLES J HAUGHEY TD

I am shocked and deeply saddened by the dreadful tragedy earlier today at the FA Cup Semi-Final in Sheffield. I offer you my sincere sympathy. I also wish to convey my sympathy and that of the Irish Government to those who have been bereaved and to those who have been injured in this terrible disaster.

Already T"S

Dear Margaret:

I have just learned of the tragic events today in Sheffield. My deepest condolences to you and to the loved ones of the victims.

Sincerely,

/s/

George

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

15th April 1989

The Right and Honourable Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister
London

My dear Prime Minister,

I was deeply grieved to learn that there was considerable loss of lives and many injured at a football match today due to overcrowding in the stands.

I wish to extend to you, dear Prime Minister, and to the bereaved families of the victims of this tragic event our heart-felt sympathy and condolences.

Yours sincerely,

Turgut ÖZAL
Prime Minister of the
Republic of Turkey

TURKISH EMBASSY
LONDON

3100/31-74-89

CCPC
CCF/CO

GR
Usual reply
AR

The Turkish Ambassador presents his compliments to the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and kindly request that the enclosed message from His Excellency Mr. Turgut Özal, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey to Her Excellency Margaret Thatcher MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, be forwarded to its high destination.

The Turkish Ambassador avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs the assurance of his highest consideration.

London, 15th April 1989

T.C. LONDRA BUYÜKELÇİLİĞİ



Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1

15.4.89

TEXT OF A MESSAGE

FOR

THE RT HON MARGARET THATCHER,MP,

PRIME MINISTER

FROM

GENERAL IBRAHIM BADAMASI BABANGIDA

PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
OF THE ARMED FORCES

Dear Margaret,

I heard last night of the bad news out of Sheffield with the deepest shock.

Nigeria is a football-loving nation and the closing stages of the FA Cup competition are followed keenly. Many of our people will therefore have a particularly acute sense of this tragedy.

Our deepest sympathy goes out especially to the injured and to the families of those who died in Sheffield.

Please accept too, for the Government and people of the United Kingdom, the condolences of the Government and people of Nigeria.

Yours very sincerely

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T77189

Ibrahim

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
LONDRES

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T76/89

MESSAGE OF MONSIEUR FRANCOIS MITTERRAND
PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

SUBJECT cc
MASTER
OPS

to

THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER, M.P.

PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN

Paris, le 15 avril 1989

"Madame le Premier Ministre,

Je vous adresse mes pensées très émues par le drame de Sheffield et vous assure ainsi que les familles des victimes de mes condoléances personnelles.

Signé : François Mitterand"./.

15.4.89

10 DOWNING STREET

Message received from Andrew O' Rourke Irish Ambassador from the Taioseach Mr. Charles Haughey.

"I am shocked and deeply saddened by the dreadful tragedy earlier today at the FA Cup semi-final in Sheffield. I offer you my sincere sympathy. I also wish to convey my sympathy and that of the Irish government to those who have been bereaved and those who have been injured in this terrible disaster"

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T75/89

SUBJECT CC MASTER
OPS

NNNN

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FAX 01 9304433

R 15/4

15 APR 1989/2032

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GBXX CO BEBR 067

BRUXELLES 67/64 15 2205

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

MARGARET THATCHER M.P.

PRIME MINISTER

10 DOWNINGSTREET

LONDON SW.1

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT I LEARNED OF THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY THAT OCCURED IN SHEFFIELD STADIUM.

IN MY NAME AND IN THE NAME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES I EXPRESS MY MOST PROFOND SYMPATHY AND ASK YOU TO TRANSMIT OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES AND TO THE FRIENDS OF THE VICTIMS.

JACQUES DELORS

For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book
International Telegram
British TELECOM

NNNN

01 ~~233 3000~~ 210

FAX 01 930 4433

R 15/4

15 APR 1989/2032

ZCZC DLN9568 BRU639 2/4692

GBXX CO BEBR 067

BRUXELLES 67/64 15 2205

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

MARGARET THATCHER M.P.

PRIME MINISTER

10 DOWNINGSTREET

LONDON SW.1

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IN MY NAME AND IN THE NAME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES I EXPRESS MY MOST PROFOND SYMPATHY AND ASK YOU TO TRANSMIT OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES AND TO THE FRIENDS OF THE VICTIMS.

JACQUES DELORS

For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book
International Telegram
British TELECOM

01 130 4455

NNNN

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T74/89

15 APR 1989/2146

ZCZC DLN9600 ZGX1887 ES41107A28481 31003

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SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS

MADRID PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO, 79,76 15 21,05

EXCMA. SRA. PRIMERA MINISTRA DEL REINO UNIDO DE GRAN BRETANA
E IRLANDA DEL NORTE
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDRES

AL CONOCER EL TRISTE BALANCE DE LA TRAGEDIA OCURRIDA EN EL ESTADIO DE SHEFFIELD, DESEO EXPRESARLE EN NOMBRE DEL GOBIERNO QUE PRESIDO Y EN EL MIO PROPIO, LOS SENTIMIENTOS DE PROFUNDO PESAR Y SOLIDARIDAD CON LOS FAMILIARES DE LAS VICTIMAS AL MISMO TIEMPO QUE HAGO VOTOS POR EL RESTABLECIMIENTO DE LOS HERIDOS

FELIPE GONZALEZ MARQUEZ
PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO ESPAÑOL

COL CKD

TOTAL P.01

British TELECOM International Telegram
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book

01 130 44 55

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAG
SERIAL No. T74189

15 APR 1989/2146

ZCZC DLN9600 ZGX1887 ES41107A28481 31003

GBXX CO ESMD 079

MADRID PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO, 79,76 15 21,05

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS

EXCMA. SRA. PRIMERA MINISTRA DEL REINO UNIDO DE GRAN BRETANA
E IRLANDA DEL NORTE
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDRES

AL CONOCER EL TRISTE BALANCE DE LA TRAGEDIA OCURRIDA EN EL ESTADIO DE SHEFFIELD, DESEO EXPRESARLE EN NOMBRE DEL GOBIERNO QUE PRESIDO Y EN EL MIO PROPIO, LOS SENTIMIENTOS DE PROFUNDO PESAR Y SOLIDARIDAD CON LOS FAMILIARES DE LAS VICTIMAS AL MISMO TIEMPO QUE HAGO VOTOS POR EL RESTABLECIMIENTO DE LOS HERIDOS

FELIPE GONZALEZ MARQUEZ
PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO ESPANOL

COL CKD

TOTAL P.01

British TELECOM International Telegram
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15 APR 1989/2031

ZCZC DLM9567 PLB173 AQS729 YBA146

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PARIS 58/52 15 2128

MONSIEUR MICHEL ROCARD

PREMIER MINISTRE

HOTEL MATIGNON

PARIS

A

MADAME THATCHER

PREMIER MINISTRE

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDRES

PROFONDEMENT ATTRISTE PAR LE DRAME QUI VIENT DE FRAPPER VOTRE PAYS, JE VOUS PRIE DE TRANSMETTRE AUX FAMILLES ENDEUILLEES, EN MON NOM ET EN CELUI DU GOUVERNEMENT, L'EXPRESSION DE MES PLUS SINCERES CONDOLEANCES.

MICHEL ROCARD

International Telegram
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book
British TELECOM

FAX

~~01-233-3000~~ R15/4

01 930 4433

15 APR 1989/2031

ZCZC DLM9567 PLB173 AQS729 YBA146

GBXX CO FRXX 058

PARIS 58/52 15 2128

MONSIEUR MICHEL ROCARD

PREMIER MINISTRE

HOTEL MATIGNON

PARIS

A

MADAME THATCHER

PREMIER MINISTRE

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDRES

PROFONDEMENT ATTRISTE PAR LE DRAME QUI VIENT DE FRAPPER VOTRE PAYS, JE VOUS PRIE DE TRANSMETTRE AUX FAMILLES ENDEUILLEES, EN MON NOM ET EN CELUI DU GOUVERNEMENT, L'EXPRESSION DE MES PLUS SINCERES CONDOLEANCES.

MICHEL ROCARD

International Telegram
For enquiries dial the number shown in your Phone Book
British TELECOM

15.4.89

President Bush - text in name

Dear Margaret

I have just learned of the tragic event today in Sheffield. My deepest personal condolences to you and to the loved ones of the victims.

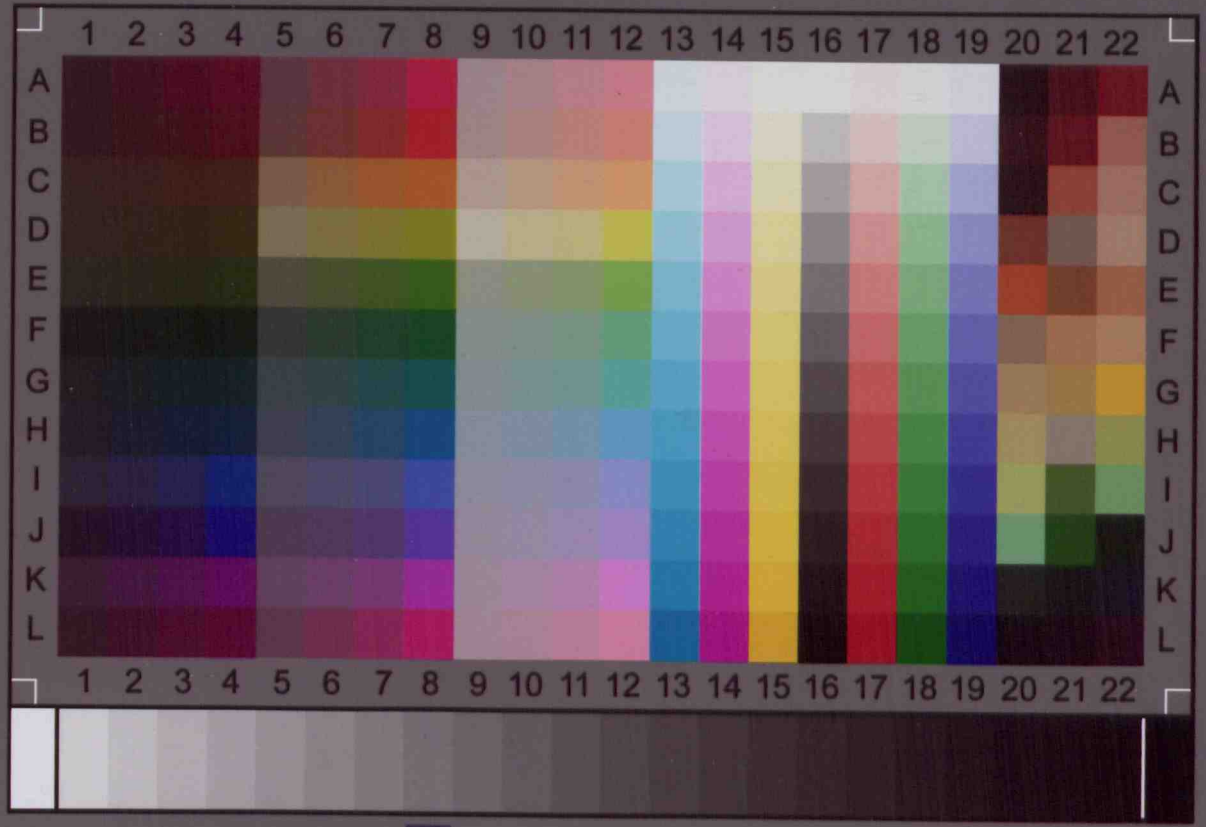
Sincerely,

George.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T73/89

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS

Filed as DISASTERS: Hillsborough Stad., Apr 89



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