

SUBJECT

cc Master



10 DOWNING STREET

Note

This record should be kept on file for internal use. It should not be sent to Mr. Monro's office. I have discussed the outcome of the meeting with PS/Mr. Monro.

WBN  
8/6

From the Private Secretary

4 June 1981

PM

Dear Warwick

As you know, Mr. Monro had a meeting with the Prime Minister last night at 2130.

The Prime Minister opened the meeting by asking for a report on soccer hooliganism following the incidents in Switzerland. She said that such incidents gave the country, and not just British football, a bad name. She had been questioned about the subject at the last Summit Meeting in Venice. She asked whether there was any action the Government could take, for instance by exerting financial pressure on the Football Association. Countries should not have to plan on making extensive security arrangements when playing matches against British teams. Mr. Monro explained that the responsibility for keeping order at football matches lay in the first place with the sporting authorities, though the Government was kept informed. He had asked the Chairman and Secretary of the Football Association to meet him after the International against Hungary. He would impress on them the importance of maintaining order at football matches to preserve the country's prestige abroad. He regretted that Sir Harold Thompson would shortly be retiring as Chairman of the FA. The FA did not receive any Government assistance, and it was therefore impossible for the Government to put financial pressure on the Association; but, in any case, Mr. Monro did not consider such pressure was needed.

There was some discussion of the possibility of controlling the supply of tickets to British fans more closely. Mr. Monro explained that the major difficulty was that tickets could usually be purchased at the ground, so reducing the effectiveness of controls within the UK. There had been some arrests following the incidents in Switzerland. He would check whether the passports of those involved had been marked in any way, since this would be one way of identifying those with records of hooliganism.

The meeting then went on to discuss the Gleneagles Agreement. Mr. Monro explained that there was a strong feeling within the Conservative Party that the terms of the Agreement should be relaxed. There was an Adjournment Debate that night on a motion from John Carlisle, who would undoubtedly call for a firm stand on relaxation of the Agreement. However, the Government was almost certain to face pressure at the Commonwealth Heads of

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Government Meeting in October to abide more strictly by the terms of the Agreement. Mr. Monro asked the Prime Minister whether she felt the UK should be lobbying for a relaxation of the Agreement, or should leave this to other countries. There were very few Commonwealth countries that would support the relaxation of the Agreement. The Prime Minister said that Mr. Fraser would almost certainly put the Gleneagles Agreement on the Agenda for the CHGM. He had been irritated at the South African Rugby Tour in New Zealand because of its possible repercussions on the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. The Prime Minister said that she felt the Gleneagles Agreement was already tight enough. The UK should continue to resist pressures to interpret it more strictly, by the drawing up of blacklists or otherwise. She agreed that there would be little support for this line at the CHGM. New Zealand and Fiji might be willing to give support. But the large countries like Canada and Australia would not. It would also be difficult to win positive support from the world sporting authorities.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister agreed that it would be very useful if an early start could be made to preparing briefing for the CHGM. This should include information on what South Africa is doing to relax its apartheid laws, and details of sporting links between South Africa and other countries. It should also include background information on any discriminatory or repressive laws in countries who criticised sporting links with South Africa. The brief should also address the case for modifying the Gleneagles Agreement. Finally, the Prime Minister said that the Government should be ready to lobby Fiji and New Zealand for support. Many Heads of Commonwealth Governments would be in London for the Royal Wedding, and this might be a useful opportunity for lobbying.

*Yours ever*

*Mike Pattison*

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