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MR ADDISON

13 April 1985

MTG BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER, LORD ABERDAIRE AND
NEIL MACFARLANE ON WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 1985

You will recall that the Prime Minister asked to see Lord Aberdaire, who is the Chairman of the Football Trust. This Trust pays and supports much of the pitch safety expenditure made necessary by designation under the Safety at Sports Grounds Act, 1975.

There is also in existence a second Trust - the Football Grounds Improvement Trust. This is also concerned with safety and although Lord Aberdaire is not directly involved in this Trust, I am told he can answer questions about this. I have asked for balance sheets of these two Trusts to be provided to the Private Office.

The Bradford City Horror on 11 May

23 of 92 league grounds have structures which date from before the First World War. The issues which the Prime Minister will need to consider and on which she probably has firm views already are as follows:

1. Whether to designate all or some of the Clubs in the Third and Fourth Division under the above Act.

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2. Whether to close all or some of the remaining wooden stands under the powers in this Act and under the Green Code issued by the Home Office, setting out the guidelines for safety. (I have asked the Home Office to send this code as quickly as possible.)

3. How much and whether to assist financially Bradford City Club to rebuild its stadium?

4. Whether the fences on the pitch can either be interspersed with gates manned by wardens or whether the engineering exists to make electrically-operated fences that would contract or withdraw at a switch.

5. Whether exit doors can be electrically-operated or at least manned by wardens who can open them at a moment's notice, and whether there should be emergency door or gate opening levers inside stands (of the emergency communication cord type).

H. Booth

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