

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH JIM LESTER AND THE ALL PARTY SPORTS
COMMITTEE AT 1600 ON THURSDAY, 16 MAY

Mr Lester arranged this meeting before the Bradford fire on Saturday, to discuss football hooliganism. He will be bringing with him Mr Pendry, Mr Banks and Mr Carlisle.

Attached below is the briefing folder for today's meeting with Lord Aberdare which covers the main points Mr Lester and his colleagues are likely to make, and provides a line to take. Additionally, at Flag G is a note from the Home Office which largely covers ground you are fully familiar with, though you will wish to look at paras 9-15 which bring the note up to date. Para 10, in particular, refers to the White Paper on Public Order which is to be published tomorrow.

You will be able to report on your meeting with the Football Trust and the Football Grounds Improvement Trust chairmen today. The meeting was a highly constructive one, and Neil Macfarlane has set up a working group including representatives from the Trusts, the Sports Council, the Pools promoters and the football authorities to consider the work which needs to be done to ensure all football grounds are safe.

The Home Secretary's Statement made clear that uncertified sports stadia generally would be visited by chief fire officers, who would be reporting to their respective local authorities.

You may wish to seek the views of the committee on the membership card issue and discuss with them their ideas more generally for combating hooliganism.

Mark Addison

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15 May 1985