

GRS 310,

UNCLASSIFIED
FM BRUSSELS 300815Z MAY 85
TO FLASH FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 151 OF 30 MAY 85
INFO IMMEDIATE ROME UKREP BRUSSELS

MY TELNO 150: FOOTBALL: LIVERPOOL V JUVENTUS

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS HERE, KING BAUDOUIN HAS TELEPHONED PRESIDENT PERTINI EXPRESSING QUOTE CONSTERNATION AND SOLIDARITY UNQUOTE. THE KING IS SAID TO HAVE EXPRESSED HIS REGRET THAT THE BELGIAN POLICE DID NOT SUCCEED IN PREVENTING THE TRAGEDY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE BELGA NEWS AGENCY PRIME MINISTER MARTENS SENT THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM TO CRAXI AND SCALFARO:

QUOTE DEEPLY DISTRESSED AND INDIGNANT AT THE OUTBURST OF VIOLENCE PROVOKED BY BRITISH SUPPORTERS WHO CAUSED THE DEATH OF SEVERAL OF YOUR CITIZENS, I PRESENT MY DEEP CONDOLENCES AND ASK YOU TO COMMUNICATE THEM TO THE FAMILIES SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE TRAGIC EVENTS. THE BELGIAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT SHARE THIS EMOTION AND ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE GRIEF OF ITALIAN FAMILIES IN MOURNING UNQUOTE

3. A SEPARATE AND LONGER BELGIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, AFTER EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES WITH THE VICTIMS, SAYS THAT WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A SPORTING OCCASION HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO AN ATROCIOUS DRAMA BY SOME HUNDREDS OF HOOLIGANS. PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ORGANISERS AND POLICE. IN VIEW OF ASSUMED RISKS AND PAST EXPERIENCE AN IMPORTANT POLICE DEPLOYMENT HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN, WITH MORE THAN 1000 MEN. THE UNSPEAKABLE OUTBURST OF VIOLENCE BY BRITISH SUPPORTERS BEFORE THE START OF THE MATCH, AND THE OUTCOME OF THE PANIC WHICH FOLLOWED, LEAD THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT TO QUESTION VERY SERIOUSLY WHETHER IT WOULD BE RIGHT TO AUTHORISE THE ORGANISATION OF MATCHES IN WHICH BRITISH SUPPORTERS WERE PARTICIPATING. THE BELGIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD CONSULT UEFA AND

/THE BELGIAN

THE BELGIAN FOOTBALL UNION ON THE LESSONS TO BE DRAWN FROM THESE
DRAMATIC EVENTS. THE DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE MATCH DESPITE
THE TRAGEDY WAS TAKEN TO AVOID THE RISK OF INCIDENTS WHICH MIGHT
HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE IMMEDIATE EVACUATION OF THE STADIUM.

JACKSON

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