



File

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Mr A Turnbull
No.10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

30 May 1985

Dear Andrew,

SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS - BRUSSELS

I have seen a copy of the Prime Minister's letter of today to the Italian Prime Minister in which she makes £250,000 available to any appeal set up for the families of the victims of the Brussels disaster.

The immediate Parliamentary procedure for such a contribution will need to be the same as for the Bradford donation viz. a PQ and Answer on the lines of that given by the Prime Minister to Mr Lawler on 20 May. Once that has been done it will be possible to finance immediate payment (assuming that is required) from a Contingencies Fund advance, to be repaid from the Supplementary Vote when available.

It will of course be necessary to determine which Vote is to provide the contribution and that will depend on its nature. If it is intended to be a contribution of a "diplomatic" or "European Community" nature we would expect the FCO to take it on their Vote. The snag about that is of course the risk of repercussions in the context of almost any other disaster involving British nationals abroad. (I need hardly mention the coach disaster in France, also yesterday).

If the donation is intended to be directly related to the UK's safety at sports grounds problem and the involvement of one of our football teams in the match in Brussels, it would be possible for DOE to take it in parallel with their Bradford contribution in a single Summer Supplementary. But the DOE has no responsibility for safety at sports grounds world-wide or the behaviour of British subjects abroad.

The first requirement is therefore for one or other of the Ministers potentially involved to accept the charge to his department's Vote. Once that has been done the same procedure as for Bradford will be possible.

Yours sincerely
Vivien Life

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