

E. R.

PRIME MINISTER

The UEFA Executive Committee meet at 4.00 pm our time in Basle this afternoon. Neil Macfarlane has spoken to Mr. Croker, the FA Secretary. Croker has been trying to make contact with UEFA officials, so far without success. However, his estimate of the likely outcome is:

- a long ban (perhaps 5 years) and a fine for Liverpool
- a ban of more than one year and probably less than 5 for English clubs
- no ban for Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland clubs.

We do not know how long the UEFA meeting will last and there may be no decision to emerge until 7.00 pm. But it is possible there will be news by the time you arrive back at No. 10 around 6.00 pm. The press are likely to be outside. I and a press officer will be there.

The Attorney General on World This Weekend indicated a preference for dealing with the problem through administrative measures rather than through legislation. However he did not rule out statutory measures particularly if administrative action by the clubs, British Rail and pubs did not work.

Suggested line to take:

"Following the horror at Brussels, I have discussed with many of those concerned, including the FA and the journalists at the game, to establish the facts about what took place on that dreadful Wednesday evening.

"I know the UEFA Executive Committee are meeting [have met] to decide what action they will be taking. That meeting was brought forward from next month. I know UEFA will have wished to take their decision in the light of all the evidence. We shall need to consider

very carefully the decisions which [have] come out of that meeting. And how we and the clubs can ensure this kind of appalling event cannot again stain the reputation of the country and the game. We will be announcing our decisions shortly."

On some aspects, { [If asked about legislation: Of course legislation e.g. alcohol control, is one of the options. We have to consider it.] we have already said that we are going to legislate .

(MARK ADDISON)

2 June 1985