

GR230
RESTRICTED
FM ROME 041530Z JUN 85
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 550 OF 4 JUN 85

RESTRICTED

LIVERPOOL/JUVENTUS: VISIT BY LIVERPOOL DELEGATION TO TURIN.

1. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL IS KEEN TO SEND A DELEGATION TO TURIN TO EXPRESS THE CONDOLENCES OF THE PEOPLE OF LIVERPOOL FOR THE TRAGEDY IN BRUSSELS ON 29 MAY. WHEN THE COUNCIL PUT THIS PROPOSAL TO THE CONSUL IN GENOA BY TELEPHONE ON 30 MAY, WHO IN TURN SOUGHT ADVICE FROM THE MAYOR OF TURIN. THE MAYOR MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE TIME WOULD NOT BE RIGHT FOR SUCH A VISIT UNTIL FEELINGS IN TURIN HAD COOLED.

2. THE COUNCIL REPEATED THEIR PROPOSAL TO WICKS ON 3 AND 4 JUNE, SUGGESTING THE DATE OF 17 JUNE FOR THE VISIT. WICKS WILL SPEAK TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ABOUT THE PROPOSAL AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING. MEANWHILE SIR TREVOR JONES, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION GROUP ON THE CITY COUNCIL, HAS SEPARATELY SOUGHT OUR ADVICE ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN THE VISIT. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO TAKE PART IN THE VISIT IF THE RULING LABOUR GROUP ON THE CITY COUNCIL WAS PRESSING IT ON THE TURIN AUTHORITIES AGAINST THEIR WISHES. WE HAVE TOLD HIM THAT WE AWAIT A CONSIDERED RESPONSE FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND WE HAVE SAID THE SAME TO AN ENQUIRER FROM A LIVERPOOL NEWSPAPER.

3. THE IDEA OF A RECONCILIATORY VISIT SEEMS A GOOD ONE, ALTHOUGH IT HAS CLEARLY BEEN RIGHT TO DELAY IT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT IS WOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE TURIN AUTHORITIES. ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION MIGHT BE A DELEGATION LED BY THE ANGLICAN AND CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF LIVERPOOL. THIS IS FOR THE LIVERPOOL AUTHORITIES TO DECIDE BUT IT IS AN IDEA WHICH WE MIGHT FLOAT WITH THEM IF THAT SEEMED APPROPRIATE.

FITZHERBERT

FOOTBALL TRAGEDY

LIMITED
CONSULAR DEPT.
WED
CRD
NEWS DEPT.
INFO DEPT
LEGAL ADVISERS

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR LUCE
PS/MR RENTON
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
CHIEF CLERK
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR JENKINS
MR BARRINGTON

COPIES TO:
PS/NR. 10 DOWNING STREET
PS/MR MACFARLANE, DOE
PS/MR SHAW, HOME OFFICE
Mr Hoarwood, FINANCE DEPT.

RESTRICTED