



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 June, 1985

Dear Tim,

Football Violence

In your letter of 30 May to Phil Dykins you recorded the main points of the Prime Minister's meeting with other Ministers, including Mr Luce, on events at the European Cup Final in Brussels on 29 May. We are taking action on international aspects in consultation with the Department of Environment and the Home Office.

There is one major outstanding point. This is the arrangements for disbursing the British Government's £250,000 contribution. Parliament has now been informed that this sum will be carried on the FCO vote. There is also the question of what advice we should give to those wishing to make private donations.

We have sought information on Italian intentions as regards a fund. The Embassy have reported that there is as yet no single authority within the Italian Government responsible for the arrangement of a disaster fund. So far we understand that:

- (a) the Italian Ministry of the Interior have decided upon an initial contribution of Lire 5 million (approximately £2,000) to each family affected by the tragedy;
- (b) the Italian Government is to put a Bill before Parliament to set out criteria for contributions to all victims of "exceptional disasters"; and
- (c) Juventus Football Club have made an initial contribution of Lire 100 million (approximately £40,000) to assist families of the disaster victims - but it is not clear whether they have themselves set up a fund.

The Embassy are in close touch with the Italian authorities about the right way to make available any British contributions to the families. They believe that the wider disaster fund envisaged by the Italians ((b) above) would not be a suitable vehicle for British contributions since there could be no guarantee that our money would get through to the right people quickly enough.



There is also the question whether any of the Italian funds are intended to include the injured as well as the families of the 31 Italian dead. This point is not yet clear.

There is not as yet any Belgian or French fund. The British community in Belgium are making a collection but have not yet decided to whom it should be presented. There were four Belgian dead and the one dead Briton was resident in Brussels. We have a list provided by the Red Cross of the names of the injured who have received hospital treatment but no information on their nationality or the seriousness of their injuries. The French may well not themselves set up any separate fund. We believe that we should aim to make an initial disbursement quickly for the families of the dead to help meet immediate needs. Given the failure of the Italians to establish a fund, we propose that such disbursements should be made direct to the three Governments. Since the Prime Minister made the offer of funds in her message, to Sr Craxi, we should explain our intention to the Italians and secure their agreement before taking any action with the French or Belgian Governments. We would propose to treat the next-of-kin of the Briton who died in the same way as the other families.

We accordingly propose that our initial offer should be of £2,000 to the next-of-kin of each of the dead. That would be in line with what the Italian Government have done. It would mean a total disbursement of £76,000, and hence leave a sizeable amount out of the £250,000 for further disbursement at a later stage either through Governments or any other appropriate channel. I should be grateful if you would seek the Prime Minister's agreement that we should proceed in this way. The Department of Environment are content that we should do so.

Finally, there is the question of how members of the British public should make private donations. The only British fund of which we are aware is that set up by the Daily Mirror and launched by Mr Robert Maxwell with a £25,000 donation. In addition we believe that Liverpool Supporters Club may be sending a donation direct to Juventus. We are advising enquirers wishing to make specific contributions to get in touch with the Italian, Belgian or French Embassies as appropriate. We would of course draw attention to a disaster fund if one was set up by the countries concerned. We

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believe that it would be best for any funds collected by British communities in the European countries to be administered locally.

I am copying this to Phil Dykins (DOE) and Nigel Pantling (Home Office).

*Yours ever,*

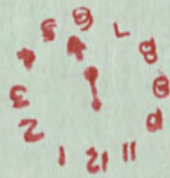
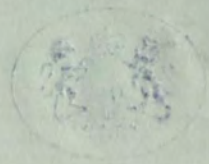
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Football



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