



Prime Minister

I attach a copy of a letter I have today sent to Tim Renton at the Foreign Office recording the outcome of my meeting with other European sports ministers in Amsterdam yesterday.

The decisions reached are highly satisfactory, and I cannot overstate the degree of unanimity and the sense of urgency and purpose which were evident amongst my European colleagues. These moves, including the proposal to tie UEFA into a binding agreement, should help the FA's efforts to rehabilitate English football in Europe once we can come to grips with the problem domestically, and this is a point which might usefully be reinforced to the football authorities at this afternoon's meeting: the Government is doing all we can to help; it is up to them to recognise the urgent need for positive action on their part.

I am copying this to Patrick Jenkin, Leon Brittan, Giles Shaw, Tim Renton, Allan Stewart, David Mitchell, and Wyn Roberts.

NM

12 JUN 1985



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
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My ref:

Your ref:

Tim Renton Esq MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Whitehall
LONDON
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12 June 1985

Dear Tim:

FOOTBALL SPECTATOR VIOLENCE: COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION

I attended a meeting in Amsterdam yesterday of some of my fellow Council of Europe Sports Ministers, called by the Dutch State Secretary, Joop van der Reijden, to discuss common action needed in the wake of the Brussels tragedy. Present were Ministers from Belgium (Robert Urbain), Federal Republic of Germany (Waffen Schmidt), France (Alain Calmat) as well as Holland and the UK; Italy and Luxembourg were represented by senior officials. The Council of Europe was represented by the Deputy Secretary General, Gaetano Adinolfi.

You will be glad to know that the meeting was very positive, both in attitudes and future commitment. There was a welcome recognition of our decisive action since Brussels. Ministers were concerned in any case not to apportion blame, but to agree on a programme of action to counter spectator violence in the future.

The unanimous view was that we had already determined valid measures to be taken, by Government and football authorities, in Council of Europe Recommendation (84)8. The obvious need was for this to be strengthened - as, you will recall, was agreed at the Prime Minister's meeting with our Football Association and Football League on 1 April - and made binding on Member states. The Deputy Secretary-General's advice was that we should seek an open Convention, based upon Recommendation (84)8. This was agreed. Additionally, Ministers were concerned to seek and conclude a binding agreement with UEFA.

There was, as you would expect, a great sense of urgency. The Council of Europe agreed to organise an informal meeting of Sports Ministers on 27 June in Strasbourg to consider, and hopefully to agree, a draft Convention. If we are successful, the proposal is that Sports Ministers would also agree to implement the document informally and bilaterally in time for next season. We are to prepare a draft in the UK, for consideration by an experts' working group meeting in Strasbourg on 25/26 June. My officials will of course be in touch with yours.

✓ I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, Giles Shaw, John Stradling-Thomas, Allan Stewart, Nick Scott and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Neil

Neil

NEIL MACFARLANE

Meeting of Ministers and State-Secretaries responsible for Sport delegates and observers from Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, France, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Italy, together with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Amsterdam, 11 June 1985.

Conclusions on the consequences of the acts of Violence on the occasion of the European Cup Final in the Heyzel-stadium in Brussels, and the common actions needed to prevent their repetition.

The Ministers repeated their sorrow and regret about this tragic event and expressed their determination to do everything possible to counter such hooliganism.

While restating their own separate but complementary responsibilities of the national governmental and local authorities and sporting bodies, Ministers emphasized that it is primarily the responsibility of U.E.F.A. to do everything within their power to prevent events of this nature. They have taken note of the measures taken so far, e.g. the temporary exclusion of certain countries or teams from competitions, and agreed that coordinated concrete and binding measures against violence must be taken immediately in Europe.

Moreover they are of the opinion that U.E.F.A. to achieve this aim, must introduce a system which would apply strict standards governing the selection of approved stadia and the preparation and conduct of matches. Compliance with the standards must be monitored and guaranteed by U.E.F.A.

Ministers discussed measures against hooliganism among spectators and decided to submit to U.E.F.A. a catalogue of measures which they consider imperative and to request U.E.F.A. to include the measures in the criteria governing the selection of approved stadia and matches.

The Ministers decided to instruct their representatives to the Council of Europe working group, due to meet on 25 - 26 June 1985, to prepare a draft catalogue to this effect, on the basis of their proposals taking particular account ~~of the importance of:~~

- a. effective segregation,
- b. control of ticket sale,
- c. effective policing,
- d. consequences of alcohol consumption,
- e. problems of transport and access,
- f. suitable penalties for offenders,

The Ministers, moreover, decided:

1. To ask the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe to convene a conference of the Ministers responsible for sport of the Council of Europe on June 27th.
2. To propose to their colleagues and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe the urgent drafting and implementation of ^{a legally} binding ~~legally~~ Council of Europe Convention on the reduction of spectator violence at sports events, and in particular at football-matches, on the basis of their Council of Europe recommendation - R (84) 8.
3. To propose to this conference to conclude an agreement between all member countries of the Council of Europe and U.E.F.A. relating to the binding conditions for the selection of approved stadia and matches under the auspices of U.E.F.A..