

From: Mrs C A B Tolley

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CAB



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB  
Telephone 01-218 2452 (Direct Dialling)  
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

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PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

Mark Addison Esq  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

D/US of S(AF)DGT 9/2/1  
2 (June 1985)

Dear Mr. Addison,

with MEA

Lord Trefgarne has seen a copy of your letter of 17 June to Mr Macfarlane's office, referring to Mr Stewart's letter of 14 June to Mr Macfarlane. You will by now have seen Lord Trefgarne's letter to Mr Stewart. Our officials have been unable to find any grounds which could support the statements made in Mr Stewart's letter or indicate what embarrassment has been caused by British Servicemen at football matches in Germany. Indeed Headquarters RAF Germany have confirmed that many airmen regularly support local German teams and their presence is welcomed and much valued by those clubs.

Frankly, the Services rather resent the allegations that have been made and Lord Trefgarne has therefore asked the Scottish Office for details of any background to their statements. I shall let you know of the results of any investigations which may follow.

Yours sincerely,  
Dorothy Mowley

Private Secretary

Football Hooliganism : Home Affairs A 5.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MILITARY HEADQUARTERS  
LONDON W1A 3AB  
Telephone 07 276 277  
Cable 2000 (MILITARY)



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PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

Allan Stewart Esq MP  
Minister for Industry and Education  
Scottish Office  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2AU

D/US of S(AF)DGT 9/2/1

21 June 1985

Dear Allan,

I have seen a copy of your letter of 14 June to Neil Macfarlane in which you seek action to prevent British supporters from travelling to the away legs of all European football competition ties involving the five Scottish football clubs competing next season in Europe. Commanders-in-Chief both at home and overseas have been asked to take all possible steps to enforce this ban in so far as Service personnel are concerned.

However, I must express the gravest concern generated in the Ministry of Defence over your comments about the attendance of Servicemen at matches, particularly in Germany, and the alleged embarrassment caused by the form of support given to Scottish clubs by Servicemen. The facts are that over the past four years, there are only two recorded occasions, involving a total of 3 Servicemen who were involved in soccer incidents in Europe. Indeed, I am assured that airmen serving in Germany are regular and much welcomed supporters of local German teams. I would therefore invite your officials to pass to me full details of the incidents which gave rise to these allegations, so that a full investigation can be made.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Leon Brittan, Tim Renton, Nicholas Scott, John Stradling-Thomas and Neil Macfarlane.

Yours,  
David

Lord Trefgarne

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PRIME MINISTER

You may be interested to see, for information, the attached correspondence. The letter at Flag A, from Mr Stewart in the Scottish Office, suggested that British Servicemen in Germany had been responsible for some disturbances at football matches there. I asked for further information about this. You will see from the two letters from the Ministry of Defence at Flags B and C, that they hotly refute that there is any substance in this. The Scottish Office have been asked for details of what lies behind their remarks.

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(I have the MO.) ; recruitment.

M/A.

not,

21 June 1985