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The Lord Trefgarne
Parliamentary Under Secretary
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Ministry of Defence
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cf.
Await MoD
reply before
putting in to PM

5 July 1985

Dear David,

with MoD

Thank you for your letter of 21 June. I am most grateful for the action you have taken to support the Scottish football authorities in their wish to play the away legs of European football ties free from the worries that the presence of British supporters would cause them.

You expressed concern about what I said about the embarrassment caused by servicemen supporters at Scottish games on the Continent in the past. My information came from two particular Scottish clubs - Rangers and Celtic - with whom we have close personal contacts and with both of whom we have subsequently rechecked the position. They say that during the past four years there has been rowdy behaviour apparently induced by drink, but no violence. I would like to emphasise the clubs' view that in general there has been excellent co-operation with the military authorities over ticket sales, military police stewarding and segregated terraces. The clubs also have to bear in mind past incidents such as that involving Aston Villa in 1981 and they are extremely cautious in the aftermath of Brussels and the UEFA ban on English teams. I am sure we can now leave it in the hands of the Commanders-in-Chief to take appropriate action.

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

Yours ever,
Allan

ALLAN STEWART