



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 July 1985

Unless your Minister advises to the contrary, the Prime Minister would like to hold a further meeting with the football authorities after the interim report from the Popplewell Inquiry has been published, and before the beginning of the next season, to take stock of the progress which has been made towards introducing measures to defeat football hooliganism and make grounds safe. She has suggested that the Football Trusts, as well as the Football Association and the Football League, should be represented at the meeting. She would expect those Ministers who attended the previous meeting on 12 June to be present. The meeting would also aim to identify those areas where action was outstanding, by whom it should be taken, and by when. We will accordingly need a working agenda before the meeting. This meeting will need to take place in the week beginning 29 July. We shall be getting in touch shortly to arrange a precise time and date.

The Prime Minister thinks it important that the football authorities should give a lead to the clubs on effective public relations policies which will contribute to combating hooliganism. She hopes that, through your Minister's working group he will be able to encourage the clubs to adopt such a programme. The Annexes to this letter contain some suggestions. She believes a campaign of this kind could do much to get the season off to a trouble-free start.

The Prime Minister also has in mind to call in the top football writers and commentators for a discussion in which she would convey to them the key influence they can have in ending hooliganism on and off the field of play. You will remember that the Prime Minister held such a meeting with journalists after Brussels, and that they proved highly receptive.

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I should be grateful to have by the middle of next week any comments your Minister, or other Ministers to whose offices this letter is copied, may have on these proposals.

I am copying this to Hugh Taylor (Home Office), Sue Vandervord (Department of the Environment), Richard Allan (Department of Transport), John Graham (Scottish Office), Colin Williams (Welsh Office) and Alistair Harrison (Mr. Renton's Office, FCO).

MARK ADDISON

Minister for Sport's Office,
Department of the Environment

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