

W. B.

**BRADFORD CITY FOOTBALL CLUB FIRE**

ccMr Butler  
Mr Ingham  
Mr Turnbull  
Mr Flesher  
Mr Addison

1. **THE FIRE**

The police know where it started. They do not know how it started. The main reason for the deaths it caused is the fact that the exits at the back of the stand were locked and unattended. Had the ground been "designated", the exits would have been manned by stewards.

2. **THE VICTIMS**

On Sunday morning the total number of people unaccounted for was 83. There were 52 bodies. By Sunday evening the number of bodies remained the same but the number of people unaccounted for had fallen to 70. The police expect the gap to close further. They hope to identify up to 40 of the bodies tomorrow. The number of injured still in hospital is 55. Of these 6 are critical.

3. **PRIME MINISTER'S INVOLVEMENT**

The Prime Minister issued a statement on Saturday evening expressing grief and sympathy to the families of the victims. This was carried as lead item on all TV and radio news programmes. She had two long discussions with the Home Secretary by telephone on Sunday morning and Sunday evening, also reported by TV and radio. She telephoned the Chairman of Bradford City Football Club on Sunday morning. She answered radio and television questions on return to Downing Street on Sunday evening. She contemplated visiting Bradford on Sunday but decided against this.

4. **ACTION IN PARLIAMENT**

The Home Secretary will make a statement on Monday. A draft was produced by officials on Sunday afternoon and is being recast following discussion with the Home Secretary. The Minister for Sport is being consulted.

The statement will announce an enquiry in safety and crowd control in football grounds. The terms of reference will be flexible enough to take account of the reports which the police, coroner, etc, will in due course make on the Bradford fire.

The enquiry will be on the model of that into the Ibrox Park disaster and will be conducted by a judge.

5. POLITICAL POINTS

Issues which have emerged in discussion and will need to be considered further are:

(a) how far were Bradford City Football Club warned about the fire risk at their stand? The BBC allege that they were. But this may refer to the preliminary survey by the local fire brigade of the work which would be needed to bring the stand up to "designated" standards.

(b) Should all professional football clubs be required to bring their facilities up to "designated" standards? If so, who should pay for this? Should the Government contribute? In this context Robert Maxwell has written in to say that the levy on football pool companies should be reduced and the money used instead for safety. (The Home Office have been informed of this.)

(c) What is the balance to be struck between safety measures and crowd control measures? What are the implications for the Government's discussions with the football league of crowd control?

6. ACTION POINTS

(a) Clear diary to allow PM to attend statement (only a speech session is scheduled for 1530).

(b) Lord Chancellor to be urged ("told") to find a suitable judge.

(c) The Prime Minister is insistent that if local hospitals need more money to cope, they must have it.

(d) In due course recognition for members of emergency services.

U. R.

(e) Extent of Prime Minister's direct involvement in further discussions of this. The Home Secretary is keen to be in charge.

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

12 May 1985

As at 17 May

*Duty Clerk*

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO BRADFORD : SUNDAY 19 MAY 1985

Mr. Flesher to make own way to RAF NORTHOLT  
(Blue Citroen Visa JGM 199Y)

Miss Caines to be picked up from  
44 Marsham Court, Marsham Street, SW1  
and driven to RAF NORTHOLT

0745

Depart Chequers

Car 1

Prime Minister  
Mr. Thatcher  
Detective

Car 2

Mrs. Ailes

0815

Depart RAF NORTHOLT for Leeds Bradford Airport

Prime Minister  
Mr. Thatcher  
Mr. Flesher  
Miss Caines  
Mrs. Ailes  
Detective

0910

Arrive Leeds Bradford Airport  
Depart for City Hall

Car 1

Prime Minister  
Mr. Thatcher  
Detective

Car 2

Mr. Flesher  
Miss Caines  
Mrs. Ailes

0930

Arrive City Hall  
Greeted by Lord Mayor, Chief Executive, Bishop,  
Chairman of the Bradford Appeal Fund, Lord Mayor  
Elect plus leaders of the three main political  
parties  
Coffee

Depart City Hall

1000 Arrive Valley Parade Football Ground  
Met by Chairman, Manager and Captain

1030 approx Depart

1045 Visits to St. Luke's Hospital and  
Bradford Royal Infirmary

1200 approx Meet representatives from Police, Fire  
and Ambulance services

Lunchtime Return to City Hall  
Visit Appeal Office  
[Meeting with bereaved]

1445 approx Depart City Hall

1500 Arrive Leeds Bradford Airport

1600 approx Arrive RAF NORTHOLT

Depart for Pinner

Car 1

Prime Minister  
Mr. Thatcher  
Detective

} Bob.

Depart for Marsham Court/No.10

Car 2

Miss Caines  
Mrs. Ailes

} Tom.

cc Prime Minister  
Mr. Thatcher  
Mr. Flesher  
Miss Caines  
Detectives  
Drivers  
Duty Clerk  
Switchboard