



CEHB

Prime Minister^(L)

A progress report, for
injection. Broadly
energy. M&A 22/11

PRIME MINISTER

FOOTBALL SPECTATOR VIOLENCE

Further to my letter of 20 September on some football matters, I should bring you up to date on progress, in particular on CCTV. I / attach a progress report prepared by Dick Tracey based upon a meeting of one of his Working Groups and on other developments.

K.B.

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12 November 1985

PROGRESS REPORT ON FOOTBALL SPECTATOR VIOLENCE

CCTV

In Divisions 1 and 2, 23 grounds out of 42 now have CCTV installed. Seven clubs have placed orders and are awaiting installation; a further 5 are in course of looking at various systems and receiving tenders; 4 clubs, all in London, claim that delays have been caused by the Metropolitan Police. The remaining clubs are in discussion with the Police. The progress is being monitored for us by the Football Association who anticipate that all Division 1 and 2 grounds will have equipment by Christmas.

There are no problems with the delivery of equipment. But it is taking time for clubs and the police to agree on the right system and layout. The Football Trust requires competitive tendering, so 3 estimates have to be obtained and sometimes these produce alternative proposals.

The police and the clubs are being encouraged to make quicker progress. In particular, the Home Office are discussing the delays with the Metropolitan Police.

FINANCE FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

As Mr Tracey reported to the House in his Adjournment Debate on Finance and Football last week, his Working Group has reached the provisional conclusion that the safety improvements required at League grounds can be achieved within 5 years, by the Football Grounds Improvement Trust and the clubs, without Government help.

All grounds are now designated under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act and are covered either by a safety certificate or by a temporary agreement with the local authority. Mr Tracey's Working Group will meet again in January, to consider the implications of the final Popplewell Report. A further case is likely to be made for Government help, perhaps in exchange for community use of football grounds; but Mr Tracey has asked the football authorities to look at ways in which they can raise extra funds to help the clubs.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The League issued guidelines to all clubs at the beginning of October. These guidelines were less than comprehensive but they included a copy of the report produced by the Football League Working Party. The League President, Mr Dunnett, was confident that clubs would bring forward effective schemes quickly; but early indications are that the response has been mixed. Some of the big clubs have said that they will not introduce a scheme.

A number of clubs have not yet replied to the League; a report is promised soon.

EUROPEAN MATCHES AND WORLD CUP

UEFA has accepted the FA's application for England to play in the next European championships, which start at the end of 1986 and culminate with finals in West Germany in 1988. UEFA has stipulated that the FA should reach agreement with the Government on particular measures all broadly within the scope of the European Convention. The FA accepts that these are matters of joint responsibility; talks will be held in the near future. The Foreign Office is to convene a meeting soon to discuss specific action for the Mexico World Cup next summer.

HOME AFFAIRS: Football Hooliganism; Pt 5

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WORLD CUP