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*From the Private Secretary*

16 June 1986

**FOOTBALL SPECTATOR VIOLENCE**

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 9 June, covering a progress report on football spectator violence by Dick Tracey.

The Prime Minister has noted that the news continues to be encouraging, and is grateful to Mr. Tracey for providing a useful report.

I am copying this letter to Tony Galsworthy (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Stephen Boys Smith (Home Office), Colin Williams (Welsh Office), Jim Daniell (Northern Ireland Office), Robert Gordon (Scottish Office) and Richard Allan (Department of Transport).

(Mark Addison)

Robin Young, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

M

Very good minute MR

cc/pt

Prime Minute. (2)  
An exciting story, as you  
know. MEA 13/6



PRIME MINISTER

FOOTBALL SPECTATOR VIOLENCE

Kenneth Baker last reported progress to you in February. Now that the 1985/86 domestic football season has ended I thought it appropriate to let you have this further report, prepared by Dick Tracey.

The partnership approach with the football authorities has worked well. As you already know, arrests at matches dropped significantly compared to 1984/85 - by 44% in League Divisions 1 and 2. Complete figures for all the Divisions and including ejections from grounds are being prepared by the police. There have been no major incidents at matches; but we shall need to maintain the pressure on, and the partnership with, football to ensure that we build further upon this success next season.

Not now!

On the international front we have three British teams currently competing in the World Cup. Dick's report covers the measures we and the three Football Associations have taken to try to prevent British hooligans attending and causing trouble. We are monitoring what happens carefully, to learn lessons for the preparations and precautions needed for the England national team's matches in the European Championships next season (English club sides have not been readmitted to European competitions next year).

We shall provide further briefing for your meeting with the football authorities on 16 July, covering the international scene in particular.

I am copying this minute and the report to Douglas Hurd, Geoffrey Howe, John Moore, Malcolm Rifkind, Nicholas Edwards and Tom King.

N R  
9 June 1986



[The body of the document contains several paragraphs of text that are extremely faint and illegible due to the quality of the scan. The text appears to be a formal letter or report.]

## PROGRESS REPORT ON FOOTBALL SPECTATOR VIOLENCE

### EFFECT OF DOMESTIC MEASURES

There were no major incidents at matches last season (1985/86). At League Division 1 and 2 clubs, arrests were down by 44% on the previous season. We await figures from the police for Divisions 3 and 4, but the indications are that similar reductions have occurred there. Our assessment is that this successful progress had 3 key ingredients:-

- the growing effectiveness and harmony of the partnership between Government and the football authorities;
- the selection of the right package of measures and its positive implementation;
- the change in atmosphere.

### The Partnership

The events and meetings of last Spring and Summer served to strengthen the partnership approach already developed with the football authorities. There has been a collective determination and commitment to achieve progress and change. As well as the Football Association (FA) and the Football League (FL), the two Football Trusts have played a vital part, in particular in funding safety work and closed circuit television (CCTV).

### The Package

Thanks to the consultation process completed by March 1985, we and the football authorities had a clear view of the "state of the art" last year, providing a firm basis for decisions on particular measures. Of the package adopted, the police believe the alcohol controls have worked well; CCTV is sup-

ported by everyone, although its installation in many grounds came after some improvement had already been noted; policing and stewarding have been more effective this season. In the absence of a single identifiable solution to hooliganism, a package was necessary and has worked; it appears that no one item is either paramount or superfluous.

#### The Atmosphere

Any crisis can develop its own solutions, through the commitment to resolve it. To a degree this has been the case in football over the past year. The football authorities and clubs had to face and make change. The PM's personal intervention gave positive direction to the various Government resources and perhaps shaped a fresh will amongst all those concerned. Above all, supporters of football appear to have behaved better this season - or stayed away (overall attendances appear to be down by about 10%).

#### INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

##### The World Cup

Perhaps 8,000 British supporters have travelled to Mexico. We worked closely with the 3 Football Associations, the FCO and Home Office in developing various ploys to stop hooligans travelling and causing trouble. In particular, Timothy Eggar and his Department put considerable effort in to trying to agree a temporary visa regime with the Mexican authorities, but they refused. As an alternative we agreed a system with the FAs for "letters of introduction" to be issued to supporters. Those intending to travel to Mexico were urged to apply to their respective Football Association for such a letter, giving personal details and passport numbers; a letter was issued if the FA had no adverse information; the Mexican authorities agreed to check for these letters when making their individual decisions about entry to the country. About 1,000 such letters have been issued. The FAs have passed all details to the police who have been able

to identify 58 individuals travelling as potential trouble-makers. There has been police liaison, through Interpol, encompassing these individuals in particular.

I am visiting the World Cup (8-15 June) to judge at first hand the effectiveness of the various precautions and arrangements. We must continue to learn lessons to inform preparations for future matches abroad (see below).

#### European Matches

The Home Countries will compete next season in the European Nations' Championships, providing our first experience of matches for which the European Convention is applicable. There are 3 matches for England next season in these championships - against Turkey, Yugoslavia and Northern Ireland - and also a friendly in Sweden. Discussions will be held later this summer with the FA on appropriate preparations, in the light of the Mexico experience and under the terms of the Convention.

#### THE FUTURE

We shall continue to monitor the effectiveness of the existing package of measures, for domestic as well as international matches. The provisions of the Public Order Bill will strengthen the hand of the police in dealing with offenders and will also give the courts the power to exclude them from domestic matches. We have managed so far without the widespread adoption of membership cards; but we shall continue to encourage the football authorities and the clubs to introduce effective schemes, in accordance with the FL's guidelines. Membership cards have the potential to make a contribution to tighter control and also to the more effective marketing which remains needed in football.

We shall also continue to press the case for increased community involvement in clubs, as part of the game's marketing strategy,

as a means of opening up facilities for public use, and as  
a longer term measure to improve behaviour.

RICHARD TRACEY

June 1986

