

BUFO 1/30

ZZ FCO

OO ROME

GRS 500

RESTRICTED

FM BRUSSELS 300025Z MAY 85

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 150 OF 30 MAY 85

INFO IMMEDIATE ROME



FLASH

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RC

HA/cons J

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PS/2ucci

JENKINS

Nº 10 J.S.

ADVANCE COPY

FOOTBALL : LIVERPOOL V JUVENTUS

1. THE LATEST INFORMATION WE HAVE FROM THE BELGIAN POLICE IS THAT 42 DIED, OF THE 36 IDENTIFIED NONE ARE BRITISH. BODIES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO THE MILITARY HOSPITAL. NAMES OF THE DEAD HAVE NOT YET BEEN REVEALED. THERE ARE SOME 275 WOUNDED DISTRIBUTED AMONG MOST OF THE HOSPITALS IN BRUSSELS. DETAILS OF BRITISH WOUNDED ARE BEING TELEPHONED TO THE RESIDENT CLERK AND RELATIVES AS WE RECEIVE THEM, BUT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED ARE ITALIAN. THE POLICE HAVE TOLD US THAT 17 FANS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, BUT THEY HAVE NOT YET GIVEN US DETAILS.

2. THE BELGIAN MEDIA PUT THE MAIN BLAME FOR THE TRAGEDY SQUARELY ON THE BRITISH SUPPORTERS, BUT THE TONE OF COMMENT IS ON THE WHOLE SORROWFUL RATHER THAN ANGRY AND QUESTIONS ARE BEING ASKED ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF POLICE PRECAUTIONS. IN INTERVIEWS INTERIOR MINISTER NOTHOMB HAS SAID THE BELGIANS FEARED VIOLENCE FROM BRITISH SUPPORTERS AND TOOK PRECAUTIONS, IN CONSULTATION WITH EUFAFA, OTHER POLICE FORCES, TRAVEL COMPANIES ETC, BUT THEY HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THE SEVERITY OF THE VIOLENCE WITNESSED. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN PLEASED TO HEAR THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT OF REGRET. THE MAYOR OF BRUSSELS HAS BEEN REPORTED AS ACCEPTING HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING ORDER AT THE STADIUM. THERE WILL NO DOUBT BE AN INTENSIVE POST MORTEM ON POLICE MEASURES, BUT THE OVERWHELMING IMPRESSION LEFT WITH THE BELGIAN PUBLIC IS OF SCENES, SHOWN REPEATEDLY ON TELEVISION, OF LIVERPOOL SUPPORTERS THROWING MISSILES ETC AND OF THE DEAD AND WOUNDED.

3. WHEN THE TRAGEDY OCCURED WE CONVEYED THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONCERN TO THE FOREIGN AND INTERIOR MINISTRIES AND THE CHIEF

CONCERNING THE FOREIGN AND INTERIOR MINISTRIES AND THE CHIEF
OF THE GENDARMERIE AND OUR READINESS TO COOPERATE IN DEALING
WITH IT. THE PRIME MINISTER'S PUBLIC STATEMENT HAS BEEN WELL
REPORTED AND WILL HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO ASSUAGE THE ANTI-
BRITISH SENTIMENT WHICH INEVITABLY HAS BEEN AROUSED, DEMONSTRATED
EG IN NUMEROUS INDIGNANT TELEPHONE CALLS. MR PETER BOTTOMLEY,
WHO WAS IN BRUSSELS ON EC BUSINESS HAS VISITED SEVERAL HOSPITALS
AND I HAVE GIVEN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW ECHOING THE PRIME MINISTER'S
PUBLIC COMMENTS. HOWEVER, AMONG OTHER STEPS WHICH MAY BE
CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING LATER THIS MORNING IN LONDON I WOULD
RECOMMEND AN EARLY MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR MARTENS
(AND SUBJECT TO ROME'S VIEW TO MR CRAXI).

PLEASE ADVANCE TO RESIDENT CLERK
P/S MR LUCE
NO. 10
HEAD OF CONSULAR DEPT

JACKSON

NNNN

ADVANCE (10/11)

11/11/81

49

W-1072
2/11/81
17/11/81
11/11/81
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