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PP ROME

PP BRUSSELS

GRS 350

UNCLASSIFIED

FM UKDEL STRASBOURG 301330Z MAY 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCC

TELEGRAM NUMBER 113 OF 30 MAY

INFO PRIORITY ROME AND BRUSSELS

VIOLENCE AT EUROPEAN CUP FINAL: COUNCIL OF EUROPE ACTION

Hd/WED
 Hd/Canada Df
 Hd/CAD
 Hd/News D.
 PS
 PS/Levy Lamy
 PS/M Luce
 PS/M Rosta
 PS/Pu
 Mr Deaf Thomas
 Mr Jenkins
 Chief Clerk
 Mr Cammillo
 No 10 DS
 M Macfarlane Min. of Sport
 DOE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED JOINTLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERS' DEPUTIES.

BEGINS

MILLIONS OF EUROPEANS WHO WITNESSED THE TRAGIC SCENES AT LAST NIGHT'S EUROPEAN CUP FINAL MATCH IN BRUSSELS WILL HAVE SHARED OUR SENSE OF HORROR AND INDIGNATION AT THE INEXCUSABLE VIOLENCE WHICH HAS BROUGHT SHAME AND DISGRACE TO FOOTBALL AND MARRED WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A HAPPY INTERNATIONAL EVENT.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY GOES TO THE BEREAVED AND THE INJURED WHO ARE VICTIMS OF A CRIMINAL HOOLIGAN FRINGE WHICH HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SPORT AND WHICH MUST BE EFFECTIVELY BARRED FROM SPORTS GROUNDS.

TO CURB SPECTATOR VIOLENCE WHICH HAS UNFORTUNATELY BECOME A EUROPE-WIDE PHENOMENON, THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE HAS DRAWN UP A SERIES OF MEASURES WHICH WILL ONLY BE FULLY EFFECTIVE IF THERE IS CONCERTED ACTION BY THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND THE SPORTING BODIES. MEASURES ADVOCATED INCLUDE ADEQUATE POLICE RESOURCES IN AND AROUND GROUNDS, SEPARATION OF RIVAL SUPPORTERS AT MATCHES, CLOSE CONTROL OF TICKET SALES AND RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

THE COUNCIL'S WORKING PARTY ON SPECTATOR VIOLENCE AT SPORTING EVENTS IS TO REVIEW THESE MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THEM AS APPROPRIATE, AT ITS NEXT MEETING IN STRASBOURG ON JUNE 24 AND 25, AS REQUESTED BY THE ORGANISATION'S FOREIGN MINISTERS LAST APRIL.

EARLIER THIS MONTH EUROPEAN SPORTS MINISTERS SAID THEY WOULD WORK FOR IMPROVED CROWD SAFETY AND CROWD CONTROL WHILE ENSURING THAT MEASURES ADOPTED RECONCILED PUBLIC SAFETY WITH PUBLIC ORDER.

WHILE RECOGNISING THE NEED FOR TOUGH MEASURES TO COMBAT FOOTBALL HOOLIGANISM, THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IS AWARE THAT RENEWED AND STRONG ACTION IS REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THE ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE IN MODERN SOCIETY WHICH ARE TO BE FOUND IN OTHER AREAS SUCH AS YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT.

ENDS

2. IN ADDITION THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS SENT A TELEGRAM IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS TO ALL EUROPEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT:-

BEGINS

FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN BRUSSELS WHICH HAVE SHOCKED AND HORRIFIED US ALL, I WOULD ASK YOU TO EXAMINE AS A MATTER OF UTMOST URGENCY, TOGETHER WITH THE APPROPRIATE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING THE IDEAS EXPRESSED AT THE RECENT INFORMAL MEETING OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT IN LISBON TO STAMP OUT THE VIOLENCE WHICH THREATENS THE VERY EXISTENCE OF CERTAIN MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS. FOR MY PART, I WILL WORK WITHIN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO SPEED UP THE REVIEW OF SAFETY MEASURES IN SPORTS GROUNDS AND THE REVISION OF CURRENT GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH VIOLENCE AT SPORTING EVENTS WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING THEM AS APPROPRIATE.

ENDS

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