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*From the Private Secretary*

17 April 1989

VISIT OF MR LUBBERS

As you know, Mr Lubbers is due to come to Chequers on Saturday 29 April with his Foreign and Finance Ministers, for talks followed by a working lunch. There is now a difficulty over the timing of this meeting. The memorial service for the victims of the Hillsborough Stadium tragedy is to be held in Liverpool at 1100 a.m. that day. The Prime Minister will attend and will need time afterwards to meet the families of the victims (although knowledge of this should, for reasons of security, be very tightly restricted indeed). The Prime Minister could be back at Chequers in time for a meeting with Mr Lubbers and his colleagues starting at 1600 and continuing over an early working supper, if that were convenient. If not, we shall have to look for an alternative date.

I think the only course is for our Ambassador to explain the Prime Minister's dilemma frankly to Mr Lubbers (or his office) asking them on no account to reveal publicly the reason why we have to seek this change. I should be grateful if you could instruct him to do so, expressing the Prime Minister's regrets for the inconvenience.

Charles Powell

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