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Withdrawal of the Soviet Union
team from the Los Angeles
Olympics 1984
Yugoslavia and the 1992 Barcelona Olympics

SPORT

May 1984

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
8.5.84							
10.5.84							
8.7.92							
10.7.92							
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MY TELNO 2168: YUGOSLAVIA SANCTIONS: OLYMPIC GAMES *file*

SUMMARY

1. SANCTIONS COMMITTEE DECIDES THAT INDIVIDUAL YUGOSLAV ATHLETES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE OLYMPICS, BUT THAT TEAMS FROM YUGOSLAVIA MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN TEAM SPORTS.

DETAIL

2. THE YUGOSLAVIA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE MET AGAIN ON 21 JULY. THE ECUADOREAN REPRESENTATIVE ASKED FOR THE AGENDA ITEM ON THE OLYMPICS TO BE RENAMED 'PARTICIPATION OF ATHLETES (INSTEAD OF 'TEAM') FROM THE FRY ...'. NGOBI (SECRETARIAT) REPORTED THAT, AFTER THE MEETING ON 20 JULY, HE HAD SPOKEN TO SAMARANCH'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT BY TELEPHONE AND BRIEFED HIM ON THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE COMMITTEE. THE IOC OFFICIAL HAD TAKEN NOTE AND NGOBI HAD SINCE HEARD NOTHING FROM THEM.

3. THE AUSTRIAN SAID THAT HE HAD NEW INSTRUCTIONS. THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO INDIVIDUAL ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS, PROVIDED

(A) THEY DID NOT APPEAR PUBLICLY AS A TEAM (EG NO PARADING IN THE OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES):

(B) THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY TRAINERS AND TECHNICAL STAFF SELECTED BY THE IOC, IE NO YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS:

(C) THE SPANISH SHOULD BE GIVEN A LIST OF THE ATHLETES CONCERNED, TAKEN FROM THE IOC LIST.

AUSTRIA COULD NOT AGREE TO YUGOSLAV ATHLETES COMPETING IN TEAM EVENTS. TAKING THE IOC LIST OF YUGOSLAV ATHLETES, THIS MEANT THAT THE BASKETBALL, WATER POLO AND HANDBALL TEAMS WOULD NOT BE

ACCEPTABLE. THE CANOERS AND ROWERS WOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED IF THEY WERE NOT COMPETING IN TEAMS. THOSE IN ALL OTHER CATEGORIES WOULD BE ALLOWED, EXCEPT FOR ANY RELAY TEAMS THAT MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN THE ATHLETICS SECTION.

4. MOROCCO, CAPE VERDE AND HUNGARY ALL SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE AUSTRIAN. JAPAN WAS INCLINED TO TAKE A HARDER LINE, QUOTING FROM THE OLYMPIC CHARTER TO AGREE THAT THE SELECTION OF ATHLETES WAS BOUND TO INVOLVE THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF YUGOSLAVIA AND THAT THIS WAS NOT IN THE SPIRIT OF SCR 757. BUT JAPAN DID NOT DISAGREE WITH THE AUSTRIAN LINE. ONLY ZIMBABWE SOUNDED A DISCORDANT (MORE PERMISSIVE) NOTE.

5. THE COMMITTEE THEREFORE DECIDED THAT INDIVIDUAL ATHLETES COULD PARTICIPATE ONLY IN THE EVENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTING THEM SHOULD REST WITH THE IOC. THEY COULD ONLY REPRESENT THEMSELVES. THEY SHOULD NOT PARADE, NOR SHOULD THEY CONDUCT THEMSELVES AS A TEAM. THEY SHOULD NOT USE A NATIONAL FLAG OR ANTHEM. THEY COULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY TRAINERS AND TECHNICAL STAFF, BUT NO OFFICIALS. THEY SHOULD NOT ENGAGE IN ANY POLITICAL ACTS. JAPAN SUGGESTED, AND IT WAS AGREED, THAT SPAIN SHOULD BE ASKED TO EXPEL IMMEDIATELY ANY ATHLETE CONTRAVENING THESE CONDITIONS. AFTER THE DECISION THE FRENCH SAID THEY ACCEPTED IT, BUT PUT ON RECORD THAT THEIR NATIONAL POSITION HAD BEEN DIFFERENT (IE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ORIGINAL IOC PROPOSAL).

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MY TELNO 2151 AND TELECON PEIRCE/MS PEARCE (UN):
YUGOSLAVIA SANCTIONS: OLYMPIC GAMES

1. THE YUGOSLAVIA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE HELD AN EMERGENCY MEETING ON 20 JULY TO CONSIDER A FURTHER LETTER FROM SAMARANCH (IOC) IN RESPONSE TO THE LETTER OF 18 JULY FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE (LATTER FAXED TO RESIDENT CLERK OVER THE WEEKEND, FORMER NOW FAXED TO UND AND EAU). THE SAMARANCH LETTER WAS RATHER ILL-JUDGED IN TONE, AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN, RESENTED THE FACT THAT IT DEMANDED AN INSTANT RESPONSE FROM COMMITTEE, ON 20 JULY. THE CHAIRMAN POINTED OUT THAT SAMARANCH'S FIRST LETTER (DATED 15 JULY) HAD ONLY REACHED THE COMMITTEE ON 17 JULY.

2. THE AUSTRIANS SAID THEY COULD NOT GET INSTRUCTIONS UNTIL 21 JULY. THEY WERE GLAD TO SEE THAT THE ATHLETES WOULD NOT NOW PARADE AS A TEAM IN THE OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES. BUT THEY STILL HAD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEAM EVENTS, WHICH SAMARANCH HAD NOT ALLAYED. THE TEAMS HAD PRESUMABLY QUALIFIED IN PRELIMINARY ROUNDS, IN WHICH THEY HAD COMPETED AS 'YUGOSLAVIA'. THE CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE MIGHT DECIDE NOW THAT THE INDIVIDUAL ATHLETES COULD COMPETE, AND LEAVE THE QUESTION OF TEAM EVENTS FOR DECISION ON 21 JULY. JAPAN SUPPORTED AUSTRIA IN ASKING FOR NO DECISION TO BE TAKEN TODAY. THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER HAD AGREED WITH THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSAL IN MUNICH THAT INDIVIDUALS ONLY SHOULD PARTICIPATE. THE SAMARANCH LETTER HAD RAISED RATHER THAN ALLAYED DOUBTS FOR JAPAN. ON THE METHOD OF SELECTION, FOR EXAMPLE, IT WAS NOW UNCLEAR WHETHER THE IOC WOULD AFTER ALL MAKE THE DECISIONS. HUNGARY SPOKE IN GENERAL SUPPORT OF AUSTRIA AND JAPAN.

3. IT WAS AGREED TO MEET AGAIN AT 211430Z.

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TELECON PEIRCE/MS EVANS (UND): YUGOSLAVIA SANCTIONS: OLYMPIC GAMES

SUMMARY

1. IOC PROPOSAL FOR YUGOSLAV ATHLETES TO COMPETE IN THE OLYMPICS RUNS INTO AUSTRIAN, ECUADOREAN AND HUNGARIAN OBJECTIONS IN THE SANCTIONS COMMITTEE. AT OUR INITIATIVE THE COMMITTEE HAS DEFERRED DECISION WHILE THE CHAIRMAN ASKS THE IOC TO MODIFY THEIR PROPOSAL SO THAT IT IS CLEARER THAT THE ATHLETES ARE COMPETING AS INDIVIDUALS AND NOT AS THE YUGOSLAV TEAM IN (THIN) DISGUISE.

DETAIL

2. THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON YUGOSLAVIAN SANCTIONS MET ON 16 AND 17 JULY TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL BY THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO ALLOW YUGOSLAV ATHLETES TO COMPETE IN THE OLYMPICS AS 'TEAM-FRIENDSHIP' OR 'TEAM-HOPE', USING THE OLYMPIC FLAG AND ANTHEM. THE CROATIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD WRITTEN TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL: SAMARECH HAD WRITTEN TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO INFORM HIM ABOUT IT (ENCLOSING A LETTER OF 7 JULY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER): SPAIN HAD ASKED THE COMMITTEE FOR A RULING (ALL PAPERS ALREADY FAXED TO UND: FAXED LETTER SHACKLETON/MS PEARCE OF 16 JULY ALSO REFERS).

3. VIEWS IN THE COMMITTEE WERE DIVIDED. THE AUSTRIANS ARGUED THAT THIS WAS A TRANSPARENT PLOY TO ALLOW THE YUGOSLAV TEAM TO COMPETE IN DISGUISE. (THE YUGOSLAV CHARGE HAD STUPIDLY APPLIED TO COMMITTEE FOR A FLIGHT TO TAKE THE TEAM TO THE GAMES, AND THE AUSTRIANS USED THIS TO REINFORCE THEIR CASE). THE ECUADOREANS ARGUED THAT SCR 757 WAS BINDING. WE SHOULD NOT HAVE DOUBLE STANDARDS. WE HAD PREVENTED THE YUGOSLAV TEAM FROM PLAYING IN A CHESS TOURNAMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES IN JUNE. WHATEVER THE IOC RULES SAID, WE COULD NOT IGNORE THE HISTORICAL REALITY THAT THE OLYMPICS WERE A COMPETITION BETWEEN STATES. HUNGARY ARGUED THAT,

WHETHER OR NOT THE IOC PROPOSAL WAS A BREACH OF THE LETTER OF SCR 757, IT WAS CERTAINLY A BREACH OF THE SPIRIT. THE REST OF THE COMMITTEE SEEMED PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THE IOC PROPOSAL, WITH THE RUSSIANS AND THE FRENCH ARGUING PARTICULARLY HARD IN FAVOUR. BUT, BECAUSE DECISIONS MUST BE TAKEN BY CONSENSUS, A POSITIVE RESPONSE WAS NOT POSSIBLE.

4. IN AN ATTEMPT TO BREAK THIS DEADLOCK WE PROPOSED THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD ASK THE IOC TO TRY TO MODIFY THEIR PROPOSAL SO AS TO MAKE IT MORE CLEAR THAT THE ATHLETES CONCERNED WERE COMPETING AS INDIVIDUALS (LIKE MONICA SELES AT WIMBLEDON) AND NOT AS A TEAM THAT WAS CLEARLY RECOGNIZABLE AS A YUGOSLAV TEAM IN WHITE VESTS. THIS WAS SUPPORTED BY THE US, FRANCE, RUSSIA AND OTHERS AND THE AUSTRIANS AGREED TO LOOK AT A REVISED PROPOSAL OF THIS KIND. THE CHAIRMAN WILL NOW WRITE URGENTLY TO THE IOC.

5. AFTER THE MEETING WE BRIEFED THE SPANISH AND ASKED THEM TO EXPLAIN TO THE IOC EXACTLY WHAT WAS REQUIRED OF THEM IF THEY ARE TO GET SANCTIONS COMMITTEE APPROVAL, IE AN ARRANGEMENT THAT LOOKS MUCH LESS LIKE A TEAM AND MORE LIKE A COLLECTION OF INDIVIDUALS. THE AUSTRIANS HAVE FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON THE OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES, WHERE, UNDER THE PRESENT PROPOSAL, 'TEAM-FRIENDSHIP' OR WHATEVER WOULD PARADE AND BE RECOGNIZED BY EVERYONE AS THE YUGOSLAV TEAM.

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CITUS ALTIUS PORTUS

COMITE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE

THE PRESIDENT

R.T. Hon. John MAJOR
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street

LONDON SW1A 2AA
Grande-Bretagne

Lausanne, 10th July 1992
Ref. No. 3385 /92/fog

*Pl. copy to
Michael Howard
/11.7*

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

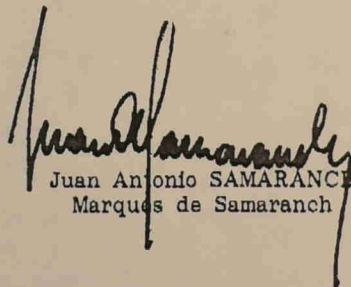
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Thank you very much for your letter dated 7th July 1992. I am pleased to announce you that we have just been informed, a few moments ago, that Yugoslav athletes will be competing in the Barcelona Olympic Games as part of a neutral team without national flags, emblems or anthems, political statements or demonstrations being strictly prohibited.

May I take this opportunity to express my special thanks to you for your most decisive, fruitful and efficient support to solve this important problem. Once more, you have shown your fondness for sport.

Looking forward to have the opportunity to thank you personally during your stay in Barcelona, I remain

Yours sincerely,


Juan Antonio SAMARANCH
Marques de Samaranch



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

KK
ccfw

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 July 1992

To Mr. President,

When we met on Friday, you explained to me your proposal that individual Yugoslavian athletes might compete at the Barcelona Olympics as part of a neutral team without national flags, emblems or anthems; political statements or demonstrations would be strictly prohibited.

As I said to you on Friday, I support action to help individual athletes compete. I therefore raised this at the dinner of G7 Heads of Government here in Munich yesterday evening, and commended your proposal. I am glad to say that all the other leaders agreed. So I believe the way should now be open for the International Olympic Committee to proceed as you propose.

I am glad to have been of help in this. I much enjoyed meeting you in London, and I look forward to seeing you in Barcelona at the Games.

Yours sincerely,
John Major

KW

His Excellency The Marques de Samaranch



Foreign &
Commonwealth
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London SW1A 2AH

5 July 1992

Dear Alex

Yugoslavia - Sanctions
Yugoslav Athletes at the Olympics

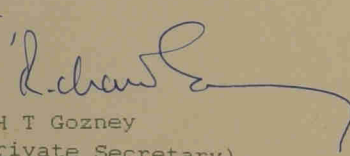
We see no problem with the proposal from the President of the International Olympics Committee to the Prime Minister that individual athletes from the former Yugoslavia should be allowed to compete at the Barcelona Olympics. It was on that basis that Monica Seles played at Wimbledon.

In our view the important elements in such a provision would be that:

- no groups or entities purporting to represent the former Yugoslavia would be allowed to compete;
- no anthems would be played;
- no flags would be flown;
- if any athlete began to take a conspicuous stance in favour of the former Yugoslavia their status should be immediately reviewed.

This would seem to sustain the principle of sanctions without debarring the individual athletes.

I am copying this letter to Nicholas Holgate (PS/National Heritage Secretary).

Yours ever,

R H T Gozney
(Private Secretary)

Alex Allan Esq
10 Downing Street

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Filed on:

10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Principal Private Secretary

3 July 1992

YUGOSLAVIA AND THE BARCELONA OLYMPICS

The Marques de Samaranch, the President of the International Olympic Committee, called on the Prime Minister this afternoon. There is one issue he raised on which the Prime Minister would be grateful for urgent advice.

Samaranch noted that the UN Security Council Resolution would not allow Yugoslavian athletes to enter the Olympic Games. If necessary, the International Olympic Committee would withdraw the invitation. But he felt a duty to protect the individual athletes and was proposing that these athletes might compete as a neutral team under the Olympic flag, wearing white vests. He cited the parallel of Monica Seles competing at Wimbledon on the grounds that she was not representing her country. I attach a copy of the document Samaranch handed the Prime Minister.

Samaranch seemed to imply in his conversation with the Prime Minister that this solution might apply only to individual athletes and not to the Yugoslavian teams which had qualified for the Olympics (e.g. their women's basketball team and men's and women's handball teams). But this idea does not seem to appear in the IOC note. He thought there would be about 60 individual athletes, mainly Serbs but also some from Macedonia, Bosnia and Montenegro.

The Prime Minister would be grateful for advice on whether we might support this idea. He is instinctively sympathetic to the position of individual athletes. He told Samaranch he would be going to Munich next week and would potentially have an opportunity to raise this with the other G7 leaders. There is no doubt, of course, that if we were able to help Samaranch in this it would generate very considerable goodwill.

I am copying this letter to Alan Riddell (Department of the Environment) and Nicholas Holgate (Department of National Heritage).

Alex Allan

Richard Gozney Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



RESOLUTION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE RELATING
TO THE PARTICIPATION OF ATHLETES AND OFFICIALS FROM
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE GAMES
OF THE XXV OLYMPIAD IN BARCELONA

DRAFT 01.07.92

1. A special team will be created by the International Olympic Committee for the purpose of enabling athletes and officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro) to participate in the Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona whilst not representing the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro) or any other form of State, country or nation.
2. The team will be sponsored and selected by the IOC. The team shall not be sponsored by, nor represent or be connected to, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro) or of any other State, nor by the National Olympic Committee of Yugoslavia, nor by any Sports Federation located in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro).
3. The team will be designated as Team Hope (in French "Equipe de l'Espoir"). (Other suggested designations: Team Solidarity (in French "Equipe de la Solidarité"); the Friendship Team (in French "Equipe de l'Amitié"); Independent Team (in French "Equipe indépendante")).
4. The team will not represent any form of Yugoslavian State, country or nation, or any other form of State, country or nation. No recognition of any kind will be given to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro) or any other form of State, country or nation, to its team or to any athlete or official of its team.
5. Only athletes and officials who have been previously deemed to be eligible are eligible to compete and participate, within the team, in the Games of the XXV Olympiad of Barcelona, subject to all provisions of the resolution.
6. The final list of athletes and officials who will participate within the team in the Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona will be established by the International Olympic Committee and sent to the Spanish Government, by July 10th 1992 at the latest.
7. All athletes and officials participating in the Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona within the team will have to subscribe, prior to the establishment of the list mentioned under section 6 above, a written undertaking under which he/she will not represent Yugoslavia or any other form of State, country or nation. In addition to which they will obligate themselves to refrain from any form of political statements or other political demonstration, including any or all references to the political situation in Yugoslavia, it being understood that any breach of such undertaking would lead to immediate exclusion of the author of the breach from the Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona.

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8. At the opening ceremony of the Games of the XXV Olympiad, the team will parade immediately before the delegation of the host country, Spain. The team, dressed in its official uniform (as defined under 8 below) shall be preceded by a name board bearing its name and shall be accompanied by the Olympic flag to be carried by a member of the team designated by the International Olympic Committee.
9. The official uniform of the team will be white, the only authorized identification being the name of the team in black letters. Any other form of embellishment, identification or addition to the official uniform of the team is strictly prohibited. These regulations shall apply not only to all ceremonies and competitions in all sites and venues of the Games of the XXV Olympiad, but also in all circumstances in which the athletes or officials of the team can be identified in any way as participants to the Games of the XXV Olympiad during the entire period of the Games.
10. In case of victory of the team or of one of its athletes, the Olympic flag shall be hoisted on the central flag pole. The abbreviated Olympic anthem shall be played. The same provisions shall apply "mutatis mutandis", in case the team or one of its athletes places second or third.
11. A special campaign of information and communication shall be undertaken jointly by the International Olympic Committee and COOB in order to clearly inform the world at large of the special status of the team, in particular its non-representative status. Special instructions shall be given to all representatives of all media in order to avoid, wherever and whenever possible, any form of national identification, recognition or designation relating to the team and its athletes or officials.
12. Invitations to the athletes to participate will be directed by the IOC to the individual athlete or team in its sole discretion.
13. Funding of the team to participate in the Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona shall be supplied through and organized by the International Olympic Committee.

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 591 OF 10 MAY

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MY TELNO 526 : OLYMPICS.

1. WITH NEARLY TWO DAYS HAVING ELAPSED SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SOVIET DECISION, THE INDICATIONS ARE MULTIPLYING THAT THIS WAS A HIGH-LEVEL DECISION, POSSIBLY TAKEN AT SHORT NOTICE AND WITH LITTLE REFERENCE TO THE REST OF THE BLOC.

2. THE FACT THAT, SO FAR, THE EAST EUROPEANS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO FOLLOW SUIT, AND THE MEAGRE SCRAPINGS FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL IN TODAY'S SOVIET PRESS ACCOUNTS OF "SUPPORT" ELSEWHERE, SUGGEST STRONGLY THAT THE FOUNDATIONS HAD NOT BEEN LAID IN ADVANCE FOR AN IMMEDIATE AND CONCERTED CAMPAIGN. THE BULGARIAN ANNOUNCEMENT CAME TOO LATE FOR PUBLICATION IN TODAY'S PRAVDA AND THE ONLY EAST EUROPEAN REACTION INCLUDED IN ITS PRESS ROUND-UP IS A SOMEWHAT BLAND PAP COMMENTARY FROM WARSAW CONCLUDING WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES "RAISES DOUBTS" ABOUT POLISH PARTICIPATION IN THE OLYMPICS. I HAVE JUST HEARD THAT THE EAST GERMANS ARE WITHDRAWING.

3. A FURTHER CURIOUS FEATURE IS THAT THE DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED AFTER ONLY TWO DAYS OF A MODEST LETTER CAMPAIGN ON THE BACK PAGE OF IZVESTIA, IN WHICH READERS QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF SOVIET ATHLETES GOING TO LOS ANGELES. USUALLY CAMPAIGNS OF THIS KIND ARE ALLOWED TO RUN AWHILE, WORKING UP TO AN APPROPRIATE CRESCENDO.

4. WHY DID THE RUSSIANS CHOOSE TO TAKE THE DECISION WHEN THEY DID, GIVEN THIS APPEARANCE OF UNCHARACTERISTIC DISSARAY? THEY STILL HAD ALMOST A MONTH BEFORE THE 2 JUNE DEADLINE TO PREPARE THE GROUND BETTER. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY ARE NOT SERIOUS AND THAT THEY WANT TO SEE THE AMERICANS EAT DIRT BEFORE PRODUCING THE ASSURANCES ALREADY GIVEN BY THE U S TO JUSTIFY CHANGING THEIR DECISION. BUT THIS IS UNLIKELY AND I THINK THE DECISION IRREVERSIBLE. AT THIS STAGE, I WOULD ADD TO THE SNAP JUDGEMENT IN MY TUR ONLY THE COMMENT THAT, ONCE AGAIN, THE EMOTIONAL, VISCERAL COMPONENT

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IN THE KREMLIN'S VIEW OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS MUCH TO ANSWER FOR AND THAT THE 'INJURED GIANT' COMPLEX (MOSCOW TEL 311) HAS BEGUN TO ASSUME ALARMING PROPORTIONS. I WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THAT REAGAN'S TRIP TO CHINA HAS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT ARKHIPOV'S JOURNEY HAS BEEN POSTPONED (WE ARE TRYING TO ESTABLISH WHY). IN RETROSPECT IT SEEMS THAT SOME OF REAGAN'S STATEMENTS THERE CAUSED GREATER EXASPERATION IN MOSCOW THAN THEY ALLOWED TO FIND EXPRESSION AT THE TIME.

5. MEANWHILE, RICHARD BURT'S REPORTED REACTION ON AMERICAN TELEVISION TO THE SOVIET DECISION HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A VICIOUS ATTACK IN THE ENGLISH SERVICE OF TASS WHICH, INTER ALIA, DREW ATTENTION TO BURT'S INTERVENTION IN THE KOZLOV CASE (CF NY TUR).

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1. THE SOVIET DECISION, WHICH IS MORE SURPRISING IN ITS TIMING THAN IN ITS SUBSTANCE, HAS PROBABLY BEEN PROMPTED BY A MIXTURE OF FACTORS INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

- I) DESIRE FOR REVENGE FOR THE AMERICAN-INFLICTED "HUMILIATION" OVER THE 1980 MOSCOW OLYMPICS:
- II) THE CURRENT ABYSMAL STATE OF US/SOVIET RELATIONS:
- III) FEAR OF DEFECTIONS.

AS THE AMERICANS POINT OUT (WASHINGTON TELNO 1433), THEY HAD MET ALL SOVIET DEMANDS BAR ONE VISA, SO THE REASON CANNOT LIE IN THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE SOVIET TEAM WOULD HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE GAMES.

2. THE US CHARGE HERE SEES FEAR OF DEFECTIONS AS THE OVER-RIDING ELEMENT. A WEEK AGO THE AMERICANS HAD AN INDICATION FROM A DOCTOR ATTENDING THE SOVIET TEAM THAT USTINOV (DEFENCE MINISTER) AND CHEBRIKOV (HEAD OF KGB) WERE BOTH STRONGLY AGAINST PARTICIPATION, BUT WERE NOT AT THAT STAGE EXPECTED TO CARRY THE DAY. ZIMMERMANN SPECULATES THAT THE RECENT KOZLOV INCIDENT (WHERE A HAND-PICKED AND THOROUGHLY SCREENED INDIVIDUAL PROVED UNRELIABLE - WASHINGTON TELNO 1335), MAY HAVE GIVEN THEM A CONVENIENT HANDLE IN ARGUING THAT THERE COULD BE AN EMBARRASSING NUMBER OF DEFECTIONS. IN MY OWN VIEW THE DECISION MUST BE SEEN PRIMARILY AS YET ANOTHER EXPRESSION OF THE PURBLIND ANTI-AMERICANISM WHICH IS BEGINNING TO ASSUME THE PROPORTIONS OF AN OBSESSION WITH THE KREMLIN LEADERSHIP (CF MY TELNO 581).

3. DISCUSSION THIS MORNING AMONG HEADS OF MISSION OF THE US, FRG, FRANCE AND UK SHOWED CONSENSUS THAT THE SOVIET DECISION IS NOW ALMOST CERTAINLY IRREVERSIBLE, AND THAT GENSCHER IS LIKELY TO SUFFER A REBUFF IN HIS REPORTED INTENTION OF TRYING TO PERSUADE THE RUSSIANS TO RECONSIDER. THERE IS AT PRESENT INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SHOW HOW FAR THE DECISION HAD BEEN CONCERTED IN ADVANCE WITH THE EAST EUROPEANS: PRESUMABLY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ROUMANIA, THEY WILL FOLLOW SUIT. BUT IT WILL NOT BE A POPULAR DECISION ESPECIALLY IN THE DDR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. INDEED THE RUSSIANS SEEM LIKELY TO LOSE PROPAGANDA TRICKS ALL ROUND.

RATFORD
FCO/PALACE
WH.
CRB.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 May, 1984

mt

cc P.C. 2
Prime Minister
Inty Cuk
8/5

Dear John,

Soviet Statement on the Olympic Games

Following your conversation with Roger Bone earlier this afternoon we now have the text of the statement issued by the Soviet National Olympic Committee. I enclose a copy.

We have just been told by telephone by our Embassy in Washington that the State Department have issued a statement expressing strong regret. It goes on to characterise the statement as "a blatant political action for which there is no justification". We shall need to consider the implications of this carefully. It is not yet clear whether the other Eastern Europeans are going to take similar supporting action which would make this into a much wider East/West incident, or whether it can be managed much more as a bilateral political problem between the Americans and the Russians. We will need to consider further, when we have seen the full text of the US statement, whether it would be appropriate for the Foreign Secretary to issue a statement in support of the Americans.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Ballard (Dept of Environment) PS/Mr Macfarlane (Parliamentary Under Secretary, Dept of Environment)

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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Taken by BBC Carverham
at 1524 on 8/9/84 1984.

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF THE USSR

The NOC of the USSR made an all round analysis of the situation around the Games of the 23rd Olympiad in Los Angeles and studied the question of the ~~Soviet sports~~ participation of the Soviet sports delegation in them.

As is known, in its statement of April 10 1984 the NOC of the USSR voiced serious concern over the rude violation by the organisers of the Games of the Rules of the Olympic Charter and the anti-Soviet campaign launched by reactionary circles in the USA. with the connivance of the official authorities and asked the IOC to study the obtaining situation. At its meeting on April 24 this year the IOC found the stand of the USSR NOC to be just and substantiated. But disregarding the opinion of the IOC, the US authorities continue rudely to interfere in affairs belonging exclusively to the competence of the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee (LAOOC). It is known that from the very first days of preparation for the coming Olympics the American Administration have set course using the Games for their political aims. Chauvinistic sentiments and anti-Soviet hysteria have been whipped up in the country. Extremist organisations and grouping of all sorts, openly aiming to create "unbearable conditions" for the stay of the Soviet delegation and performance by Soviet athletes, have sharply stepped up their activity with direct connivance of the American authorities. Political demonstrations hostile to the USSR are being prepared, undisputed threats are made against the USSR NOC, Soviet athletes and officials. Heads of anti-Soviet, anti-socialist organisations are received by US administration officials, their activity is widely publicised by the mass media. To justify this campaign, the US authorities and Olympics organisers constantly refer to legislative acts of all kinds.

Washington has made assurances of late of readiness to observe rules of the Olympic Charter. The practical deeds by the American side, however, show that it does not intend to ensure the security of all athletes, to respect their rights and human dignity, and create normal conditions for holding the Games.

The cavalier attitude of the US authorities to the Olympic Charter, the gross flouting of the ideals and traditions of the Olympic movement are aimed directly at undermining it. This line that was manifested clearly earlier is conducted now as well

In these conditions the NOC of the USSR is compelled to declare that participation of Soviet sportsmen in the Games of the 23rd

Olympiad in Los Angeles is impossible. To react differently would be tantamount to approving of the anti-Olympic actions of the US authorities and organisers of the Games.

Adopting this decision, we have not the slightest wish to cast aspersions on the American public, or cloud the good feelings linking sportsmen of our countries.

The NOC of the USSR, sports organisations of our country will further support the efforts of the IOC, the Association of National Olympic Committees, International sports federations, international association of sports writers directed at strengthening the international Olympic movement, struggle for the preservation of its purity and unity

Moscow May 8 TASS
Statement by NOC