



The Central Council of Physical Recreation

70 Brompton Road London SW3 1HE Telephone 01-584 6651/2

PL/JJW/9197

30th January 1980

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Prime Minister

The CCPR is very grateful indeed to you for agreeing to receive a small delegation of our senior officials to discuss matters relating to international sport.

I thought it might be helpful for you to have in advance of the meeting a copy of the statement that was agreed by 54 governing bodies of sport at a special meeting that was held a week ago, to discuss this particular issue.

Yours sincerely

PETER LAWSON
General Secretary

Enc

Patron:
Her Majesty The Queen

President:
HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT OM

Chairman of the Executive Committee:
Mrs Mary A Glen Haig CBE

Deputy Chairman:
N W Sarsfield MC

Honorary Treasurer:
Sir Denis Follows CBE BA

General Secretary:
Peter Lawson

Divisional Chairmen:

Games and Sports: K K Mitchell OBE

Major Spectator Sports: Sir Denis Follows CBE BA

Movement and Dance: Miss E Alexander OBE

Outdoor Pursuits: J S Edbrooke OBE

Water Recreation: D S Nations OBE

Interested Organisations: Lt-Col R G Satterthwaite OBE



The Central Council of Physical Recreation

70 Brompton Road London SW3 1HE Telephone 01-584 6651/2

Patron:
Her Majesty The Queen

President:
HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT OM

Chairman of the Executive Committee:
Mrs Mary A Glen Haig CBE

Deputy Chairmen:
N W Sarsfield MC

Honorary Treasurer:
Sir Denis Follows CBE BA

General Secretary:
Peter Lawson

Divisional Chairmen:
Games and Sports: K K Mitchell OBE
Major Spectator Sports: Sir Denis Follows CBE BA
Movement and Dance: Miss E Alexander OBE
Outdoor Pursuits: J S Edbrooke OBE
Water Recreation: D S Nations OBE
Interested Organisations: Lt-Col R G Satterthwaite OBE

Enclosed is a statement agreed by the
meeting of the Games and Sports Division
of the CCPR held on Thursday 24th
January 1980.

Peter Lawson
GENERAL SECRETARY

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF PHYSICAL RECREATION

This meeting representative of 54 Governing Bodies of Sport regrets the current dramatic intrusion of political considerations into the management of International Sport, the long term effect of which can only prove detrimental to British Sportsmen and women.

The meeting recognises that Governments have a right and a duty to employ legitimate sanctions against such other Governments as contravene internationally accepted standards of behaviour but it feels that the use of sport as a first-line weapon of sanction as opposed to tougher economic or diplomatic measures not only destroys one of the traditional roles of sport, viz to unite nations through friendly competition rather than to divide them, but also has yet to be proved as a truly effective weapon, in the long term, in changing the foreign and external policies of Governments.

AFGHANISTAN

This meeting is concerned that as a result of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan the British Government may be contemplating a recommendation to boycott the forthcoming Olympic Games. The CCPR is urged to arrange an immediate meeting with Mrs Thatcher and her advisers, at which the enormous difficulties of reaching international agreement to stage some of the events in the UK, due to the mechanics and machinery of international sport, may be explained in some detail, and to draw her attention to the overall ineffectiveness of sporting boycotts in the past upon foreign policy of Governments.

Furthermore, it is essential that the Government understand that the decision to stage the Olympic Games in Moscow is the responsibility of the International Olympic Committee and not of the British Olympic Association. Any eleventh hour exhortation to change the venue for the 1980 Games should be addressed to the IOC.

The meeting warns that should the Government recommend a boycott of the Games and take legislative action to achieve a boycott, the position of those UK citizens who hold elective office in International Federations of Sport would be an extremely serious one, as by virtue of their office they are international officials and are bound to have regard to the international obligations that are imposed upon them by virtue of participation in the Olympic Games.

The meeting stresses that in the final analysis in a truly democratic society, as opposed to a totalitarian one, it must be the responsibility of the individuals concerned and the British Olympic Association to determine whether to participate in the Moscow Olympics.