

Subject Sport, Jan 80,  
Olympic Games

OPS

Text of a Letter of 5 March from the Prime Minister of Australia, the Rt Hon. Malcolm Fraser, to the Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T48/80

Begins:

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to follow up our telephone conversation last night.

I know you have been taking a close personal interest, as I have, in the Afghanistan situation and the related matter of the Olympic Games.

More than ever, I believe that it is essential that independent nations achieve an effective boycott of the Olympic Games. We cannot allow the Soviets the kind of victory they would achieve if our athletes were to participate at Moscow while Soviet troops remain in Afghanistan.

It seems to me to be crucial now that the move towards a boycott be given added momentum. Over the last three or four weeks not much has happened and I believe that the issues now need to be addressed at the highest political level.

I believe we need firm decisions about alternative games for our athletes. We need decisions that demonstrate the determination and strength of the United States and Europe supported by as many others as possible.

Against this background I am asking my Minister for Home Affairs, the Honourable R.J. Ellicott, who is responsible for sport, to have discussions with other like-minded governments. I would hope that you would agree that he could have discussions with your appropriate Minister.

I believe that the next Steering Committee Meeting, in Mid-March, would be much more effective if it were to be at ministerial level.

Certainly Mr Ellicott will be available to participate should that eventuate.

As we discussed, I very much hope that you can also send a Minister. I understand that ministerial representation is what the United States would prefer.

I have noted the position reached by the British Olympic Committee yesterday. This indeed points to the need for governments to move quickly to provide a framework within which the respective national Olympic Committees can reach final decisions with full knowledge of the consequences and alternatives.

My very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(Malcolm Fraser)

Text ends.

5 March 1980