



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 May 1980

Dear Mrs. Glen Hargreaves,

Thank you for your letter of 14 May about the relationships between the Government and the voluntary bodies responsible for the control of sport.

I welcome your re-affirmation of the spirit of co-operation evident when we met on 4 February to discuss this year's Summer Olympics. I sincerely hope the differences of opinion over this one particular issue will not be allowed to alter the normally excellent relationship between Ministers and sports organisations. Certainly it is not our intention that they should do so.

Sport in this country generally operates with the minimum amount of interference from Government. But very occasionally - particularly in international affairs - sport and politics come together, and decisions have to be made for political reasons. The Summer Olympics and the Gleneagles Agreement are two such cases. On these occasions, it may be difficult, e.g. because of lack of time to extend consultations beyond Ministers and their officials. However, we have a Minister with special responsibility for sport and with a considerable range of expert official advice available to him. Moreover, he is in constant touch with the world of sport and with sportsmen and women and can represent their interests if circumstances preclude full consultation.

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It follows that I think the points of principle and of detail you make in your letter are best addressed to Hector Munro for discussion with you and consultation within Government as he considers necessary. I am, therefore, copying your letter and this reply to him.

Yours sincerely  
Raymond Johnston

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Mrs. M.A. Glen Haig, CBE.