

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Mythen
The PM would like the point
at x checked before today's
mtg. *Spoff*
R.

The Solicitor-General spoke on the telephone with the Prime Minister at 1920 hours last evening. He said that he had been the Guest of Honour at a dinner of the Amateur Swimming Association the previous evening. It was clear that the Association was totally bewildered about how they should approach the decision of whether or not to go to Moscow for the Olympics. They seemed to be hoping that the problem would "go away". He had tried to suggest to them that they should set a lead and propose that the swimming events take place in the U.K.. The Secretary of the Association, Mr. Southfield, had a better appreciation of the situation than other members; and he had in fact booked the Crystal Palace pool for a major international competition in August. He understood that Mr. Southfield would be seeing the Prime Minister along with other members of the Central Council for Physical Recreation the following day. He hoped that the Prime Minister would give Southfield some encouragement to build the Crystal Palace event up - as an alternative event to the Olympics. It was relevant that British swimmers were not particularly interested in competing against Russian swimmers: ~~that~~ their main interest was to compete against U.S. swimmers. In addition, the Association were looking for some guidance on what line they should take concerning possible return fixtures with the Russians.

X | The Solicitor-General went on to say that he understood that one of the rules governing the Olympics laid down that countries which were in conflict with other countries could not take part in the Games. He wondered if this rule could be invoked in order to switch the Games from Moscow.

The Prime Minister said that she agreed that the Swimming Association should be encouraged to take a lead - rather than looking to Government. But it was also reasonable for them to expect some guidance: on the question of possible return fixtures with the Russians, she thought that all our sportsmen should avoid official events with the Russians for the time being.

R.

4 February 1980