

Subject: Sport, Jan 80,
Olympic Games

RECORD OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE
AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER, MR. MALCOLM FRASER, ON TUESDAY 4 MARCH
AT 1230

Prime Minister: Hello Malcolm, how are you?

Mr. Fraser: Hello Margaret, how are you?

Prime Minister: I'm fine. We're bearing up.

Mr. Fraser: I was ringing you about the Olympics. I was speaking to Lloyd Cutler last night and I told him I was contemplating sending a Minister to this next meeting of the Steering Committee. And he told me that they had decided it could be in Geneva. I don't know if that is official yet, but he said that was the American view.

Prime Minister: I had not heard that.

Mr. Fraser: I don't much mind where it is, but if it is in Geneva I think that would be a good place.

Prime Minister: Yes, so do I.

Mr. Fraser: But I am worried about officials going along because we have had a sort of inter-regnum period the last three or four or five weeks. Nothing much is happening. No firm decision about alternative sites and I think that Ministers need to get together if they can and try and get some decisions out which would give athletes the hope and understanding of alternative international competitions and I am worried that if we don't start to get some decisions and action of a hard nature that it is just going to run out from under us.

Prime Minister: I agree. When Vance was over here. When Cy Vance was over here I did say to him - it was only a few days ago - I thought it absolutely vital that the athletes had some alternative games to go to. And I think then at that stage it really rather

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depended on the attitude that Trudeau would take to Montreal. Now I have not heard anything since then, but I agree that some people were seeking refuge in the idea that if Russia were to accept the idea that Afghanistan should be neutral then there would be no problem. Most of us take the view that unless Russia is actually out of Afghanistan then there is no change.

Mr. Fraser: How can they be neutral if they have got 100,000 troops there.

Prime Minister: Exactly. I agree that nothing much seems to have happened, now you're sending a minister and what you're really saying to us is will we do the same thing.

Mr Fraser: Yes, I want to send a Minister. I don't want him to be a shag on a rock by himself but Carter's got Lloyd Custer^{EL} there as his sort of personal emissary and if you could send a minister I certainly would and I might even do it if you don't. But I would hope you would.

Prime Minister: You want some political input and some political sensitivity.

I think it wants a

Mr Fraser: /Political input, political sensitivity and also people who are prepared to pick up the ball and run with it and officials just won't do it they will always play ultra safe.

Prime Minister: Yes, yes one moment I've just got a telegram put in my hand about Vance. (Does it say anything about the Olympics, I can't even read it - what does it say. The Moscow summer Olympics continue to be an issue of major attention in Washington. We are very grateful for the staunch stand taken by yourself and myself and deeply appreciative of the close co-operation we have received in the Olympic Steering Committee. Before the next meeting of the Committee suggested for the week of 12 March in Washington or in Europe and we hope a number of concrete decisions can be taken concerning alternative games.

Mr Fraser: Is that a telegram from Washington?

Prime Minister: That's a telegram from Washington. That's from Vance back to us after what we said here. When did that come in?

Mr. Fraser: If they are hoping for decisions, all the more reason for Ministers

Prime Minister: .. for Ministers to be there. I will get on to the Foreign Office at once Malcolm and I will be in touch with you.

Mr. Fraser: All right. Well thank you very much ..

Prime Minister: .. we both feel absolutely the same on this.

Mr. Fraser: I was also thinking of getting on to Pierre. What do you think if we both did?

Prime Minister: Let's find out..interrupted.. I wonder whether we can find out first whether Washington has been in touch with Pierre.

Mr. Fraser: I have been told that they ultimately won't be in a different position from America.

Prime Minister: What Canada?

Mr. Fraser: Canada will/^{not}ultimately be in a different position.

Prime Minister: So that means if the President asks Pierre Trudeau then he is likely to accept. Is that right?

Mr. Fraser: Well if if ultimately America boycotting Canada will ultimately boycott.

Prime Minister: Oh I think that's right. You and I are really on to alternative games aren't we?

Mr. Fraser: Yes

Prime Minister: Really to do the athletes justice. I regret that I would like to find out whether there is any possibility - you get on to him by all means. I think you might have more influence on him than me.

Mr. Fraser: Oh I doubt it very much. But anyway ..

Prime Minister: Can I consider that further Malcolm?

Mr. Fraser: Let's consider that and I just think its got to the stage where a political importance and a political decision are necessary or it will all run out from under us.

Prime Minister: Well there is not much time to arrange alternative games unless a decision is taken pretty quickly. All right - consult straightaway. All right - thank you very much. Goodbye

Mr. Fraser: Goodbye.