



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 May 1980

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street

NBPA

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Dear Michael,*

Mr Hurd has asked me to send you, for your background information, a copy of his enclosed letter of today's date to Mr Monro.

*Yours ever,*

*[Handwritten signature]*

C T W Humfrey  
PS/Mr Hurd

cc: Nigel Wenban-Smith Esq  
Cabinet Office

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London SW1A 2AH

9 May 1980

From The Minister of State  
Douglas Hurd CBE MP

*Dear Mr Innes,*

OLYMPIC GAMES

I attach a record of a meeting I have had with Lt Col Innes of the BOA.

It would be worth encouraging press interest in the fund-raising contacts with left-wing groups which he reports. I have considered his proposal for a meeting with the Chairmen of the governing bodies of sporting federations still intending to send people to Moscow, and I must say I find it attractive. Obviously timing will be important. So would any offer or hint we could drop about money. My instinct is to wait and see what the Federal German Olympic Committee decide on 15 May and its effect on waverers. If the BOA finds itself isolated in the West and among leading sporting nations, a meeting could be persuasive - more so perhaps than another letter from the Prime Minister.

For maximum effect I think the meeting should be chaired by Peter Carrington. I have not asked him before having your views, but doubt if he would do it. If that is so, you and I could possibly act as co-Chairmen.

I should welcome your views before we meet in MISC 39 on 19 May to review the situation.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Andrew Hurd*  
*for Mr Hurd*

(approved by Mr Hurd and signed in his absence by his Private Secretary)

Hector Monro Esq MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
of State  
Department of the Environment

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RECORD OF MEETING BETWEEN THE HON DOUGLAS HURD CBE MP, MINISTER OF STATE, AND LT COL J INNES, HONORARY TREASURER OF THE BRITISH OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION (BOA), HELD IN THE FCO AT 1530 ON 7 MAY 1980

1. After being welcomed by Mr Hurd, Lt Col Innes referred to a number of recent events relevant to the Moscow Olympics. He mentioned press reports on the meeting of Western European National Olympic Committees in Rome on 3 May and their recommendation to reduce ceremonial: he himself was not at the meeting and had no further information on it. He had also just heard that Lord Killanin had seen President Brezhnev: he did not know what had been said, but if the Soviet leader favoured the reduction of ceremonial, Lt Col Innes expected Lord Killanin to try and argue to President Carter that the Russians had made a major concession and that the US Government should reverse its Olympic policy.
2. Lt Col Innes then referred to a meeting of the BOA last week. Mr Anthony Tuke had stopped asking for funds from commerce and industry. There was enough money in the kitty to send 203 competitors and 68 officials to Moscow, but not enough to cover administrative expenses much beyond the Games. Sir D Follows had started writing to County Councils and trades union bodies of known left-wing persuasion in an effort to raise more money. Lt Col Innes thought this action most unwise: the BOA had claimed to be above politics, but was now introducing a political element into fund-raising. Such action could adversely affect fund-raising in the future. The Association's action had not so far been reported in the press.
3. Lt Col Innes was also upset by the BOA's cavalier attitude towards the letters from the Prime Minister to Sir D Follows. The letters were never properly discussed in committee: copies were circulated at the meeting that decided to accept the Moscow invitation: that decision was very quickly reached after a forthright speech by Lord Exeter, which was immediately followed by a resolution in favour of going to Moscow.
4. Lt Col Innes went on to suggest that in the absence of proper presentation of the Government's views to the BOA it might be useful if a senior Minister could meet the Association to explain the Government's attitude to the Olympics. Association members could also ask questions. Vice-President Mondale had spoken to athletes in America to good effect. Lt Col Innes thought the pill would be sweetened if the Government could offer money to help set up a 'preparation fund' for the future. Such a fund had been established with the proceeds of previous appeals; it had been extremely useful, particularly for athletes who required special equipment or training. He recognised that the

/Sports Council

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Sports Council already helped with travel expenses: the fund he had in mind was different since the BOA would control it themselves. He was sure that such a carrot and stick approach made directly to the Association would be effective. Only a hard core of the athletes held strong views about going to Moscow, namely the boxers, wrestlers and weight-lifters: he did not think the majority of the remainder would mind very much if they did not go.

5. Mr Hurd wondered if a meeting would be helpful. The hardliners could say that the ground had been covered before. Consideration was being given to further action by the Government, particularly if the German National Olympic Committee decided on 15 May to support the boycott. The idea of a meeting would need careful thought. The proposal to offer money was a little worrying. It could be interpreted as a bribe. Moreover it might not persuade the athletes to change their minds.

6. Lt Col Innes then argued that the BOA's appeal had failed because the Government had advised people not to go. There was enough money for administrative expenses for 1980 and possibly 1981, but there was not enough to cover expenses in 1982, 1983 and the run-up to the 1984 Games, if they were to take place.

7. Mr Hurd said that the idea of a meeting was well worth thinking about, especially as the Prime Minister's letters had had such little impact. Lt Col Innes stressed that the idea was his own: he had not discussed it with colleagues in the Association. But he was sure that a personal meeting would be persuasive: it would be nice if Lord Carrington could take it on. Mr Hurd concluded by saying he would discuss the idea with Mr Monro, but he pointed out that the Secretary of State currently had great demands on his time and was unlikely to be able to host a meeting of the sort Lt Col Innes proposed.

(8. Lt Col Innes telephoned after calling on Mr Hurd. He had had second thoughts about a meeting between a Cabinet Minister and the BOA, since he felt on reflection that Ministers would get nowhere with the BOA. It would be better if a Minister could meet the Chairmen of those sporting bodies still intending to send participants to Moscow.)

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