

# The British Olympic Association

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7th March 1980.

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
10 Downing Street  
London S.W.1.

Dear Prime Minister,

## Olympic Games - Moscow

The National Olympic Committee met on 4th March and passed the following resolution:-

" The National Olympic Committee confirms that it is its present intention to send a British team to the Olympic Games. However it will defer its reply to the invitation to participate until its next meeting on 25th March."

The above resolution was passed as a result of some two hours discussion and against the following background:-

1. The resolution passed in September 1978 which reads as follows:-

" Throughout the history of the Olympic Games and in accordance with the established principles of the Olympic Movement emphasis has always been placed on the participation of the individual competitor in the Games.

The British Olympic Association therefore is of the opinion that subject to the laws of each participating nation, and in accordance with the regulations of the International Federation concerned, any competitor, if selected, should not be denied the privilege of participating in the Olympic Games."

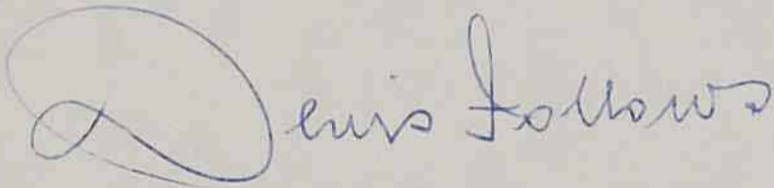
This 1978 resolution was passed as a result of the many approaches which were being made at that time from a number of anti-Soviet organisations who wished the British Olympic Association to declare that they would not send a team to Moscow. The circumstances therefore were somewhat parallel to those which obtain today except that the situation has become exacerbated as a result of the Soviet activity in Afghanistan.

2. The unanimous declaration of the International Olympic Committee in Lake Placid that the Olympics should go ahead in Moscow.
3. The unanimous decision of National Olympic Committees in Mexico City "to reject and avoid any external influence on the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games designed to change existing arrangements for the celebration of the Games of the XXII Olympiad.
4. The statement agreed by fifty-four governing bodies of sport at the meeting of the Games and Sports Division of the C.C.P.R. held on 24th January 1980.
5. The request of a group of West European National Olympic Committees to postpone taking a decision until after 22nd March when there will be a meeting in Brussels to discuss the matter of taking part in the Moscow Olympics.

Whilst it was not apparent during the course of discussion I am satisfied that your letter of 19th February and a subsequent letter from Mr. Douglas Hurd addressed to members of the National Olympic Committee had some effect in persuading members of the Committee from taking an immediate decision to accept the invitation from the Soviet Organising Committee.

The National Olympic Committee had no desire to embarrass the Government in what we are told are delicate negotiations proceeding at the present time designed to improve the situation in Afghanistan.

Yours sincerely,



SIR DENIS FOLLOWS  
Chairman.