

# The British Olympic Association

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

1st February 1980.

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*Dear Prime Minister,*

I have now had sufficient response to my letter to the members of the National Olympic Committee following receipt of your letter of 22nd January, to justify my informing you of their reaction.

There is little or no support for the suggestion that the Summer Games be moved from Moscow.

The members of the National Olympic Committee have been assured by the International Olympic Committee that the Moscow Olympic Committee has met all its requirements, and that, to date, the International Olympic Committee has no grounds for abrogating its agreement with the Moscow Organising Committee.

For the reasons stated in my letter of 23rd January, and in particular the attitude of the International Federations, it is not thought possible to consider the fragmentation of the Games.

As the members of the National Olympic Committee see it, unless the International Olympic Committee finds just cause to move the Games from Moscow, there is no alternative to their being held there.

The National Olympic Committee has received an invitation to participate in the Moscow Games. In view of your concern, that of the government and that of many individuals, I have arranged for the question of whether to accept the invitation or not to be placed on the Agenda of a special meeting of the National Olympic Committee convened for 4th March, by which time Officials who are attending the Winter Games in Lake Placid will have returned to this country.

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You may rest assured that your views, those of a group of Members of Parliament whom we have met, together with the many other views we have received will be considered at that meeting.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Denis Howell.*