



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
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My ref:

Your ref:

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

28 January 1980

Prime Minister

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*[Handwritten signature]* 28/1

Dear Michael

As you know, Mr Monro met Sir Denis Follows, Chairman of the British Olympic Association, and the British Olympic Association General Secretary, Dick Palmer, last Thursday to discuss their reaction to the Prime Minister's letter of 22 January.

The British Olympic Association explained that the International Olympic Committee could only move the Games from Moscow if a state of war existed or if there had been a breach of the contract between the IOC and the Moscow Organising Committee. So far none of the 26 International Federations governing the Games had raised the question of a change of venue. There could be no question of fragmentation.

The IOC would be meeting in Lake Placid before the Winter Olympics and the BOA would raise with them the suggestion that the Summer Olympics be moved. In the meantime, members of the National Olympic Committee would be asked for their observations.

Two things troubling the BOA at the present time were the fact that because of recent developments and future uncertainties the Olympic Appeal had taken a severe knock and a letter delivered recently to Sir Denis from the British Olympic Travel Committee expressed concern for 5,000 members of the public who had booked to see the Games in Moscow and stood to lose substantial deposits. The BOA asked that this letter be brought to the Prime Minister's attention.

Mr Monro was informed that the United States Olympic Committee were to appear before the IOC in Lake Placid to explain what pressures, if any, had been put on them by the United States Government to boycott the Moscow Olympics.

Mr Monro welcomed the action taken by the BOA to consult members of the Committee and its intention to approach the IOC. He regretted that the Association had been placed in such an unenviable position but stressed the seriousness of the situation and the threat to world peace resulting from Russia's invasion of Afghanistan.

Yours sincerely  
*Geoff Needham*

GEOFF NEEDHAM  
Private Secretary

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Your Ref:

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BY HAND

23rd January 1980

Dear Sir Denis,

re: Olympic Games in Moscow 1980

You may recall that I am the Solicitor for David Dryer (Sports Travel) Limited, the General Agents in the U.K. for selling tours and tickets for Games of the 22nd Olympiad in Moscow 1980. I am also a Director of that Company and Vice President of the British Olympic Travel Committee.

At the time of writing David Dryer is currently in Moscow where he is doing his best to smooth out the difficulties which seem to crop up on a daily basis as a result of general political pressure on a world wide basis. I shall not bore you with my own views on the subject.

However I do feel that there is a very important aspect which people in the limelight have overlooked. I am of course referring to members of the public who have booked to see the Olympic Games in Moscow. Some of these people have been saving for some four years to see the Games and something in the region of 5,000 members of the public in the U.K. have booked to go. Most of these people have in fact made stage payments and many of them have paid for the trip in toto.

In accordance with arrangements made with the Soviet authorities David Dryer (Sports Travel) Ltd. has deposited funds in advance in Moscow in accordance with his contractual obligations. These deposits cover hotel bookings, Olympic Games tickets and

Associate offices: 6399 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90048 U.S.A. and at 139 Igboere Road, Lagos, Nigeria.

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general travel arrangements. As you are probably aware the average cost of each tour is something in the region of £500 per head.

If political pressure is so intense as to either  
(a) persuade the U.K. not to participate in the Games or

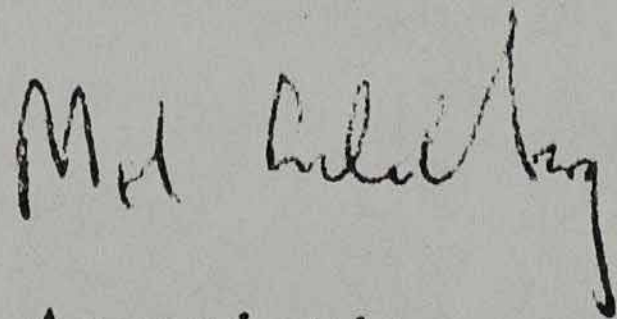
(b) to persuade the venue of the Games to be changed then there will be scant hope of ever recovering the sums deposited with the Russian authorities. They will no doubt argue that only the IOC can cancel the Games and my own feeling is that the Games will take place in Moscow even if the Russians are the only ones who attend! Accordingly if the British are persuaded not to go, financially that would be their own problem.

I understand that the Prime Minister has written to you with certain suggestions following the recent discussions in the House of Commons. I doubt very much whether any serious consideration has been given to the general members of the public who stand to lose substantial deposits. Will the Government compensate those parties and if so to what extent?

David Dryer is returning to the Country at the end of this week and I would be happy to attend a meeting with him and your goodself at your offices if required to discuss the above problems. However in view of the Prime Minister's recent letter to you I thought it only right and proper to bring the above facts to your immediate attention.

I look forward to the favour of an early reply.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Dennis Follows,  
The British Olympic Association,  
1-2 John Prince's Street,  
London W1M 0DH.

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