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TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 32 OF 10 JANUARY,

INFO IMMEDIATE MUSCAT (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY), ROUTINE MOSCOW

WASHINGTON OTTAWA PARIS BONN ROME UKDEL NATO.

AFGHANISTAN AND THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS.

1. I BELIEVE THAT THE ABSENCE FROM THE OLYMPICS OF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF MAJOR STATES WOULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW TO SOVIET PRESTIGE AND ONE OF THE BEST WAYS IN WHICH STATES COULD SHOW THEIR DISAPPROVAL OF THE INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN. CANCELLATION, POSTPONEMENT OR RELOCATION OF THE OLYMPICS WOULD BE EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE.

2. THE DIFFICULTY OF COURSE IS THAT PARTICIPATION IS NOT A MATTER FOR GOVERNMENTS, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY COUNTRIES WHERE THIS IS NOT GENUINELY TRUE. IN THE CASE OF THE UK THE MOST THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD DO WOULD BE TO ADVISE THE BRITISH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AGAINST PARTICIPATION, AS WAS DONE IN REGARD TO THE BRITISH LIONS RUGBY TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA, WE ARE CONSIDERING THIS.

3. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE VIEWS IN PARA 1 ABOVE GAINED CURRENCY AMONG UN MEMBERS DURING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S EMERGENCY SESSION ON AFGHANISTAN WHICH BEGINS TODAY. IT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER IF NON-ALIGNED DELEGATES REFERRED TO THE MATTER IN SPEECHES AND IF THE OLYMPICS COULD BE MENTIONED IN ANY RESOLUTION THE SESSION MAY ADOPT, FOR INSTANCE BY CALLING UPON THOSE CONCERNED TO RECONSIDER THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION.

4. UNLESS YOU FEEL INHIBITED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASPECT PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN IN THE CORRIDORS TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE LINES OF PARA 3. PLEASE ANYWAY ENCOURAGE OTHER WESTERN AND FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS TO SPREAD THE WORD.

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