



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 September 1981

Dear Ray,

JOHN CARLISLE MP

John Carlisle, MP, called on the Prime Minister this evening as arranged, to discuss the Gleneagles Agreement and CHGM.

Mr. Carlisle referred to his association with a new organisation called Freedom in Sport dedicated to taking sport out of politics and encouraging freer contacts among sportsmen. He said that he had made a number of visits to South Africa in recent years and had seen that sport there was becoming increasingly multi-racial. Indeed, in many instances, sport there was fully integrated. He referred to cricket as having a particularly good record. However, the sportsmen in South Africa felt that their efforts were getting no recognition internationally. They were having to bear the brunt of breaking down apartheid but they could not be expected to go on doing so if there was no response. Mr. Carlisle said that against that background he was concerned about the likely discussion of the Gleneagles Agreement in Melbourne. He appreciated that it was unrealistic to hope that the Gleneagles Agreement might be denounced. However, it was important that, at least, nothing should be done in Melbourne to make the Gleneagles Agreement more binding.

The Prime Minister said that her objective in Melbourne would be to keep discussion of the Gleneagles Agreement to an absolute minimum. She hoped it might be possible to get away with no more than a brief confirmation of the Agreement. She agreed with Mr. Carlisle that it was altogether unrealistic to expect that the Agreement might be denounced. Any attempt to reopen its terms would cause more difficulties than it would solve. But she would certainly resist any attempt to toughen it up.

Mr. Carlisle asked whether there was any possibility of reaching an agreement to exclude from the operation of the Agreement those sports which could be shown to be fully integrated in South Africa. The Prime Minister said that she saw little prospect of this. The Gleneagles Agreement was directed against apartheid as such. Those who supported the Agreement were unlikely to be moved by evidence of improvements in individual sports. They would be looking for evidence that the system

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itself was being changed. She herself, of course, had always thought it important to welcome publicly any amelioration of the situation in South Africa and would go on doing so.

The Prime Minister asked whether the Freedom in Sport Campaign intended to make any kind of representations during the CHGM in Melbourne. Mr. Carlisle said that he himself had in fact been invited to go to Melbourne. He was hesitating as to whether or not to accept. The Prime Minister said that she thought that the events which had accompanied the Springbok tour to New Zealand meant that sport would be a very sensitive topic in Melbourne. She thought that it would be an inauspicious occasion for Freedom in Sport to make its presence felt. She hoped that Mr. Carlisle would not go. Mr. Carlisle said he was grateful for the Prime Minister's advice. He implied that he would take it.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Roderic Lyne (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Yours sincerely

Richard Alexander

Ray Higgins, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.