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FROM SIR LEO PLIATZKY  
CONFIDENTIAL

MR PATTISON

THE SPORTS COUNCIL

1. I should perhaps let you know that the Duke of Edinburgh asked me to call on him in connection with my assignment. Apart from his general dislike of bureaucracy and his support for voluntary effort, his particular interest stems from his being President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), a capacity in which he conducts a running battle with the Sports Council. This is a body on which the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Nigel Lawson, has also commented critically in the course of a conversation with me.
2. The Sports Council was set up by Royal Charter in 1972 to help sport and recreation. It took over most of the staff of the CCPR, and now has a total staff of about 550 at its head office, or in the regions or at Sports Centres. It took over from the Department of the Environment the distribution of Government grants for sport and recreation, and now receives a grant in aid of over £15 million for these purposes and for its own administrative costs.
3. The CCPR remains in existence as the representative organisation of all the governing bodies of the various sports, and is itself financed by a grant from the Sports Council. The Duke of Edinburgh is opposed to the provisions of the Royal Charter under which the Chairman and members of the Sports Council are nominated by the Secretary of State. He does not suggest that the clock should be turned back by abolishing the Sports Council but that the Charter should be amended so that the Council would consist of elected representatives of sports governing bodies. Although a quarter of the Council's members are now appointed on the nomination of the CCPR, the Duke of Edinburgh is not satisfied with this compromise.
4. He intends to return to the charge on this matter with the Minister for Sport, Mr Hector Monro. His purpose in talking to me was to find out how the situation would be affected by my exercise. The Duke of Edinburgh did not expect me to mediate on his behalf, but he has sent me a number of papers on the subject, including in particular a copy of a discussion paper for the Executive Committee of the CCPR outlining his proposals for a National Federation of Sport and Recreation and he will, I think, be glad of my moral support for what it is worth. I said that Ministers should be aware of his intervention and would report accordingly.

CONFIDENTIAL

5. Mr Lawson's concern is, I believe, of a rather different kind. He has reason to believe, from an adviser who had some contact with the Sports Council some time ago, that at that time at any rate it was anything but an economy-minded organisation.

6. I have discussed these matters with Mr Monroe. He is of course familiar with the Duke of Edinburgh's position and, though he does not have a closed mind on the detailed arrangements, he does not believe that a council of elected representatives would be a workable arrangement in this field, or that it would include the kind of people with management ability and money sense which he has been concerned to bring on to the Council.

7. He agrees that it has not been an economy-minded organisation or tightly administered in the past, but believes that improvements are being made. An Assistant Secretary from the Department of the Environment was seconded to the Sports Council a few months ago to take charge of administration there. With Mr Monroe's concurrence I have had a private talk with this Assistant Secretary. I am prepared to believe both that the organisation has been a bit too plushy in the past and that efforts have begun to tighten up.

8. This case reinforces me, incidentally, in making one modest suggestion which I intend to put forward in my report. This is that bodies of this kind should give at least as much information about salaries in their annual reports as companies are required to do by the Companies Acts, and that they should also give a reasonable breakdown of expenses even though this is not required by the Companies Acts.

9. To revert to the particular case of the Sports Council, given that the Minister for Sport is fully alive to the issues, I have no particular suggestions to offer but, unless there is any objection, I should like to let the Duke of Edinburgh know that I have let the Prime Minister know of his views and have discussed them with the Minister for Sport, but that it will naturally fall to the latter to respond to them.

10. I am sending copies of this to the Private Secretaries to the Minister for Sport and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury and also to Sir Ian Bancroft.

L.P.

LEO PLIATZKY

7 November 1979



10. DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR LEO PLIATZKY

The Prime Minister was grateful to see your report on the Sports Council, in your minute to me of 7 November.

She has noted that the Minister for Sport is aware that the Sports Council may have been less than economical in style in the past, and that Mr. Monro has taken steps to improve the situation.

I can confirm that the Prime Minister will have no objection to your informing the Duke of Edinburgh that you have reported his views to her.

MAP

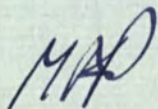
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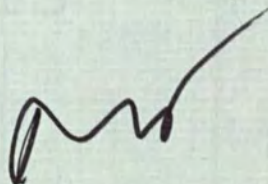
CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

I attach a note from Sir Leo Pliatzky  
about the Sports Council. This is very much  
a side issue in his assignment. I draw it  
to your attention in case it should happen  
to arise at an Audience. If you are content  
with Sir Leo's advice, your message in  
response would be that Mr. Monro recognises  
the validity of criticisms of the Sports  
Council, and is taking steps to get it under  
control.



MAD



9 November 1979

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS ADMINISTRATION IN THE UK

The Finance and administration of sport and recreation in Britain are undertaken in various ways:-

1. The Government provides public funds from the Treasury allocated to the Department of the Environment and thence to the Sports Council and Countryside Commission, and to the Department of Education and Science and thence to Local Education Authorities, Colleges and Universities.
2. The quasi-autonomous government organisation - the Sports Council - directly responsible to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Sport) which grant aids the construction of facilities and the administrative expenses of Governing Bodies.
3. The CCPR which is a democratically organised federation of the Governing Bodies of sport and recreation which are each responsible for the general administration of their sports nationally, and co-operate with other national Governing Bodies in the administration of their sport internationally; the selection and training of international competitors and the organisation of international competitions and championships in Britain.
4. The Sports Aid Foundation which supports top level international competitors in association with their Governing Bodies.

5. Sponsors of sport who contribute to the cost of national and international competitions and championships and assist Governing Bodies in the development of coaching schemes and the sport in general.
6. The British Olympic Association which finances the British participation in the Olympic Games and, under the title of the Commonwealth Games Federations of the Home Countries, organises their participation in the Commonwealth Games.

The history of the past eight years has demonstrated that this unco-ordinated system is confusing and unsatisfactory, prone to unnecessary duplication of effort and fails to recognise the important function of the voluntary Governing Bodies.

The former Minister for Sport was frequently pressed to resolve these difficulties and their resolution must continue to be regarded as a high priority.

In many of the west European countries the Government involvement in the finance and administration of sport has developed through a direct relationship with the voluntary Governing Bodies of sport.

There are two major issues that need to be resolved in the British context:-

1. The relationship between the Sports Council and the Minister responsible for sport on the one hand, and the relationship of the Chairman and staff of the Sports Council to the

members of the Sports Council on the other. It is not possible for the members of the Council to be responsible for the policy and decisions of the Sports Council if the Chairman and staff are directly answerable to the Minister.

2. The rights of the Governing Bodies to influence the allocation of funds to the development of the sports and recreations for which they are responsible.

There are two possibilities for an objective resolution of the current difficulties:-

1. An independent enquiry set up by the Government to decide on the future pattern of finance and administration of sport.
2. An inquiry set up by the CCPR (as the Wolfenden Committee) under an independent Committee and Chairman.

There is an alternative solution which might be implemented without the need for a lengthy enquiry:-

A single Ministerial and Government Department with responsibility for all the functions related to sport and recreation at present undertaken by the Department of the Environment and the Department of Education and Science to include:-

1. Training of Physical Education Teachers.
2. Sport and recreation in schools, colleges and universities.
3. National and Regional Sports installations and facilities.
4. The Countryside Commission.
5. The Waterways Board.
6. The Regional Councils of Sport and Recreation.
7. Sports Medicine.

A National Federation of Sport and Recreation comprised of the following:-

1. The CCPR with a membership of the Governing Bodies of sport and recreation. Only one Governing Body for each to be admissible as a member.
2. Specialist Associations such as Handicapped, Paraplegic, Aged, NPFA etc.
3. National voluntary organisations with a direct interest in sport and recreation.

The NFSR to meet in General Conference at regular intervals consisting of representatives of all the member organisations of its three constituent groups.

The General Conference to review progress and to discuss policy and development plans; to elect a President and Honorary Treasurer, and a Sports Council (Executive Committee) of up to, say, 30 members.



The Sports Council (Executive Committee) to meet three to four times a year; to elect a Chairman and, say, five Trustees of the Sports Aid Foundation, and to appoint appropriate Committees including:-

1. A General Purposes and Finance Committee with one or two members appointed by the Minister.
2. An Administration Grants Committee with one or two members appointed by the Minister.
3. A National Recreation Centres Management Committee.
4. A Competitions Committee for National and International Events and for coaching and preparation training.
5. A Joint Committee with the British Olympic Association and Home Countries Commonwealth Games Associations.

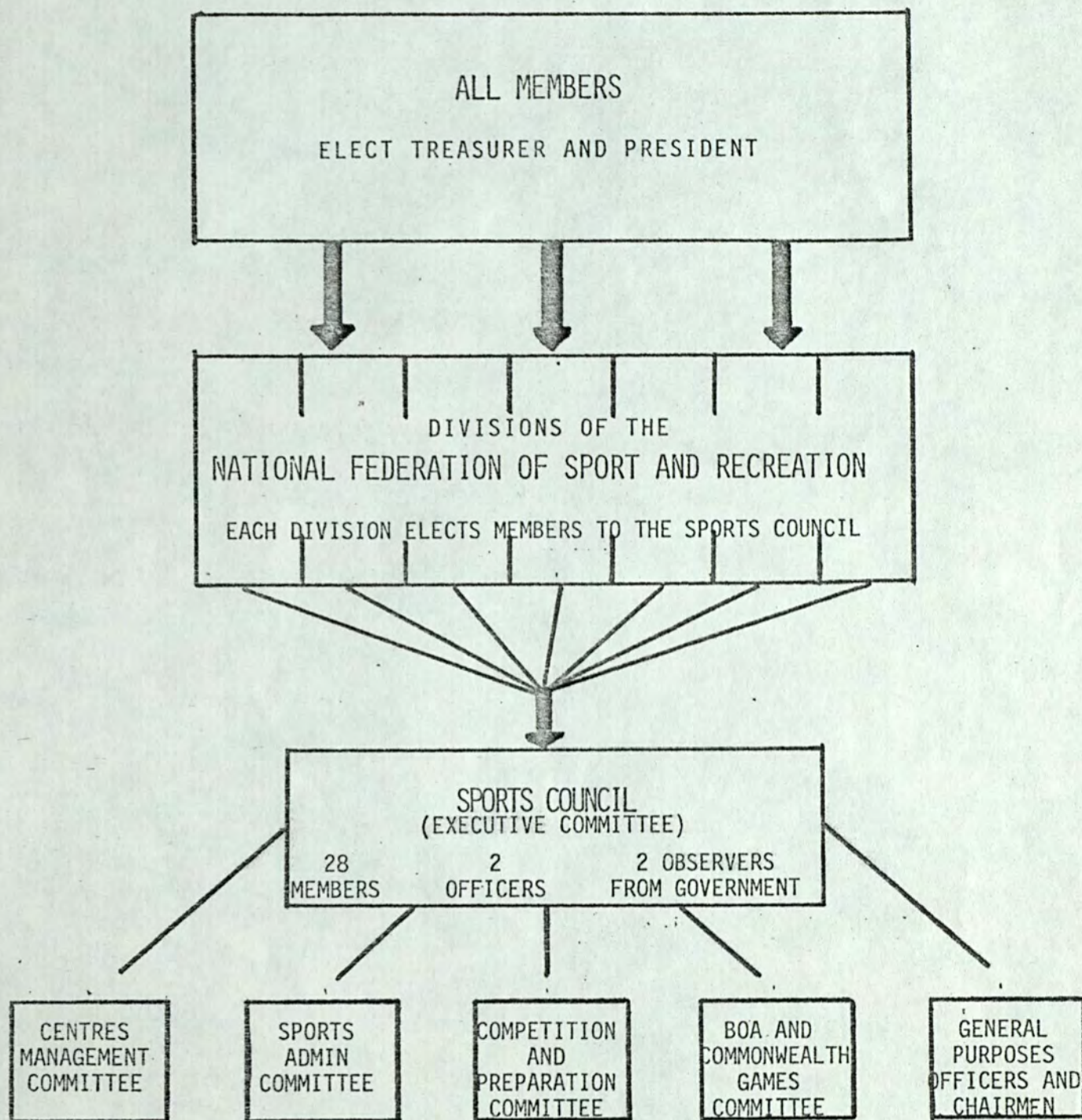
All Committee Chairmen to be members of the Executive Committee, the remaining members to be selected from delegates to the General Conference. Committees to be limited to, say, twelve members.

The NFSR to be funded by:-

1. Subscriptions.
2. Lotteries.
3. Allocations from pools and betting.
4. Fees.
5. Public Funds for specific purposes.

In principle all elected positions within the NFSR to be held for four years with re-election for one further period of four years, thereafter not before a compulsory one year break. The President to be elected in the Olympic Year - preferably at a General Conference after the Olympic Games - and the Honorary Treasurer in the Commonwealth Games Year.

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT AND RECREATION





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14 November 1979

Sir,

May I thank you for your letter of 5th November, and the papers enclosed with it, about Quangos and the Sports Council.

When we discussed my assignment, I explained that my general approach is to secure that Ministers in charge of Departments themselves ask searching questions about each of the bodies for which they are responsible and take action in the light of the answers to these questions. I do not have the time or resources to involve myself personally in the details of each of the many hundreds of bodies covered by the review. Therefore, as regards the Sports Council, I contented myself initially by querying the cost-effectiveness of this body and asking the Department of the Environment themselves to consider this point as part of the review.

In view of your interest, I have now gone in a little more detail into this aspect of the matter, since it is on financial questions that I have the most competence. As a result I am somewhat confirmed in my doubts whether this has in the past been an altogether economy-minded organisation, but I also accept that the Department themselves are conscious of this and have taken steps which should produce an improvement in the future.

This is of course a different matter from your own concern with the way in which the Sports Council is constituted and the basis on which its members are appointed. This is frankly a matter on which I do not

/have

H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, KG KT,  
Buckingham Palace  
London SW1

have any particular competence, and it was made clear in our discussion that I was not being asked in any sense to mediate, but rather to clarify how this issue might be affected by my exercise. However, I have discussed this aspect too with the Minister for Sport, Mr Hector Monro. He will therefore be aware that it is in your eyes still a live issue, and I am sure that he takes it very seriously, but there are clearly important differences of view and I am afraid that, though I have certainly done nothing to hinder a resolution of the issues, it is outside my competence to do anything to help.

I have informed the Prime Minister of the position and of your views on the matter, on the basis that it will be for the Minister for Sport to respond to them.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your Royal Highness's most humble  
and obedient servant,

Leo Plafly .

15 NOV 1979

