



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 February 1984

file D59

*cc Tsy
DES
Chief Sec*

JOINT CIRCULAR ON SPORT AND RECREATION

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's further minute of 21 February about sport and recreation. She is content for him to consider, in consultation with colleagues, alternative ways of getting across the message on dual use of facilities. The Prime Minister understands that your Secretary of State has in mind an initiative through the Sports Council, which would combine a promotional campaign with limited grants for which provision has already been made.

DAVID BARCLAY

John Ballard, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

E.R.

CF: papers post

2MB

27/2

PRIME MINISTER

Joint Circular on Sport and Recreation

You decided against the view of a joint DES/DOE circular on Sport and Recreation because the timing was not right.

In the attached minute, Patrick Jenkin says that he accepts your decision about a circular, but hopes that you will agree that his Department should consider other ways of "getting the message across". I understand that he has in mind an initiative through the Sports Council, which would consist of a promotional campaign of dual use backed up by limited grants (for which the funds are available within existing provision).

Content for me to proceed in this way, in agreement with colleagues?

Yes not

PP
DB

24 February, 1984.



cc NO

Minute

B11 26/1/84

PRIME MINISTER

JOINT CIRCULAR ON SPORT AND RECREATION

Your Private Secretary wrote to mine on 10 February setting out your view that the time was not right for the issue of a joint Circular. I am slightly disappointed by this decision, but I do of course see the strength of Keith Joseph's argument.

The decision has, unfortunately, put us in a slightly difficult position because, rightly or wrongly, expectations of Government action in this area have been raised over the last few months. Neil Macfarlane referred in a major policy speech last November to a "new initiative" on dual use, and while the issue of a Circular has not been announced, knowledge of it has inevitably spread, and it was being looked forward to particularly by the Sports Council and the Association of District Councils.

At the same time we have been actively pursuing an initiative to persuade the country's major private employers to open their sports facilities to a wider public, and I am afraid that we could be accused of inconsistency if we are not seen to be making similar efforts in the public sector.

I still believe that there are considerable benefits that will flow from increased shared use of facilities, and while I fully accept what you say about the timing of the Circular, I do feel that my Department must now consider alternative ways of getting that message across.

I am copying this minute to Nigel Lawson, Peter Rees and Keith Joseph.

PJ

P J

21 February 1984

Home Affairs Values of
Society Pt 3



21 JAN 1984