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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 May, 1984

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Dear John,

Soviet Statement on the Olympic Games

Following your conversation with Roger Bone earlier this afternoon we now have the text of the statement issued by the Soviet National Olympic Committee. I enclose a copy.

We have just been told by telephone by our Embassy in Washington that the State Department have issued a statement expressing strong regret. It goes on to characterise the statement as "a blatant political action for which there is no justification". We shall need to consider the implications of this carefully. It is not yet clear whether the other Eastern Europeans are going to take similar supporting action which would make this into a much wider East/West incident, or whether it can be managed much more as a bilateral political problem between the Americans and the Russians. We will need to consider further, when we have seen the full text of the US statement, whether it would be appropriate for the Foreign Secretary to issue a statement in support of the Americans.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Ballard (Dept of Environment) PS/Mr Macfarlane (Parliamentary Under Secretary, Dept of Environment)

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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cc P.C. 2
Prime Minister
Inty Clerk
8/5

Taken by BBC Carverham
at 1524 on 8/9/84 1984.

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF THE USSR

The NOC of the USSR made an all round analysis of the situation around the Games of the 23rd Olympiad in Los Angeles and studied the question of the ~~Soviet sports~~ participation of the Soviet sports delegation in them.

As is known, in its statement of April 10 1984 the NOC of the USSR voiced serious concern over the rude violation by the organisers of the Games of the Rules of the Olympic Charter and the anti-Soviet campaign launched by reactionary circles in the USA. with the connivance of the official authorities and asked the IOC to study the obtaining situation. At its meeting on April 24 this year the IOC found the stand of the USSR NOC to be just and substantiated. But disregarding the opinion of the IOC, the US authorities continue rudely to interfere in affairs belonging exclusively to the competence of the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee (LAOOC). It is known that from the very first days of preparation for the coming Olympics the American Administration have set course using the Games for their political aims. Chauvinistic sentiments and anti-Soviet hysteria have been whipped up in the country. Extremist organisations and grouping of all sorts, openly aiming to create "unbearable conditions" for the stay of the Soviet delegation and performance by Soviet athletes, have sharply stepped up their activity with direct connivance of the American authorities. Political demonstrations hostile to the USSR are being prepared, undisputed threats are made against the USSR NOC, Soviet athletes and officials, Heads of anti-Soviet, anti-socialist organisations are received by US administration officials, their activity is widely publicised by the mass media. To justify this campaign, the US authorities and Olympics organisers constantly refer to legislative acts of all kinds.

Washington has made assurances of late of readiness to observe rules of the Olympic Charter. The practical deeds by the American side, however, show that it does not intend to ensure the security of all athletes, to respect their rights and human dignity, and create normal conditions for holding the Games.

The cavalier attitude of the US authorities to the Olympic Charter, the gross flouting of the ideals and traditions of the Olympic movement are aimed directly at undermining it. This line that was manifested clearly earlier is conducted now as well

In these conditions the NOC of the USSR is compelled to declare that participation of Soviet sportsmen in the Games of the 23rd

Olympiad in Los Angeles is impossible. To react differently would be tantamount to approving of the anti-Olympic actions of the US authorities and organisers of the Games.

Adopting this decision, we have not the slightest wish to cast aspersions on the American public, or cloud the good feelings linking sportsmen of our countries.

The NOC of the USSR, sports organisations of our country will further support the efforts of the IOC, the Association of National Olympic Committees, International sports federations, international association of sports writers directed at strengthening the international Olympic movement, struggle for the preservation of its purity and unity

Moscow May 8 TASS
Statement by NOC