

Subject filed as Sport:  
Olympics: Pt 3.

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TEXT OF A LETTER OF 28 MAY FROM THE  
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA,  
THE RT HON. MALCOLM FRASER,  
TO THE RT HON. MARGARET THATCHER

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Begins:

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 115/80

My dear Margaret,

Since our conversations earlier this year and our recent correspondence on the Olympic Games, most countries have declared their position on participation in the Moscow Games. Many countries have decided not to participate and it now appears that an effective boycott is in place.

It is however a matter of very great regret to myself and my Government that the Executive of the Australian Olympic Federation decided last Friday by a very narrow six to five majority that an Australian team should participate in the Moscow Olympic Games.

As you know, I and my Ministers have consistently urged the Australian Olympic Federation that, in the national interest, an Australian team should not participate in the Moscow Olympic Games.

A number of significant community interests in Australia have deplored the decision and this reaction is likely to become more widespread as the implications of the Executive decision become widely known in the community.

We remain firmly of the view that an Australian team should not participate in the Moscow Games and I and my Ministers shall do all that we can to persuade the Executive to reconsider its decision. We shall also call upon individual sporting bodies and sportsmen and women to make their own decisions not to participate in the Moscow Games.

I understand that this approach is consistent with that being taken by yourself and your Ministers in seeking to get the British Olympic Association and individual sporting bodies to think again. It is my sincere hope that we can both succeed in bringing home to our sports leaders and sportsmen and women that they should put their responsibilities to the national interest ahead of their responsibilities to sport.

My very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(Malcolm Fraser)

Ends.