

R E S T R I C T E D



Subject - Barbados, Sport JS

April 20 - call by Tom Adams

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 April 1980

Dear Roderie,

CALL BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS

The Prime Minister of Barbados paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister this morning.

After some general discussion about the economic position in Barbados, Mr. Adams raised the question of the Olympic boycott. He said that he himself was strongly in favour of the boycott. He regarded the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as being an exceptionally grave matter. In some respects, it seemed to him less justifiable than Nazi Germany's invasions of Austria and the Sudetenland. At least in the latter cases there had been an element, however limited, of racial and linguistic justification. The Barbadian Olympic Association had not yet come to a conclusion but were likely to seek discussions shortly after Mr. Adams returned to Bridgetown. Mr. Adams said it would be helpful to him to have the Prime Minister's assessment as to whether in the end a British team would be participating in Moscow. The Prime Minister said that she thought that some federations would probably send teams but that a number would not. Much would depend on the attitudes of the French and German teams. She thought that athletes in both France and Germany would follow the advice of their governments. The fewer athletes from major Western countries who went, the less attractive the Games would become to the remainder. Mr. Adams said he agreed with this analysis. Of the Caribbean countries which had already indicated an intention to go (he mentioned Guyana, Trinidad and Jamaica), he thought that Trinidad at least might well reverse its decision.

There was a strong implication in what Mr. Adams was saying that he did not think that a team from Barbados would be going to Moscow.

I am sending copies of this letter to Charles Humfrey (FCO), Geoffrey Needham (Department of the Environment) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.