

Sport

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PRIME MINISTER

c. Mr. Ingham
Mr. Alexander

The Marquis of Exeter telephoned to complain that you were being incompetently advised over the Olympics. He stressed at some length the values of the camaraderie, etc. generated by the Olympic Games. He was adamant that it was quite impossible to organise the Olympics with events scattered around the world as implied in your comments yesterday. He added that, even were it physically possible to re-organise it on this basis, the IOC and the International Governing Bodies for each sport would all have to agree, and that it would clearly be impossible to achieve this.

After getting matters off his chest, the Marquis said that his call was purely private, he would not be making it known that it had passed this message to No. 10, and he would be delighted to provide you with any better-informed advice on the matter which you might require in the future. He was clearly unbowed by his encounter with the Conservative Sports and Recreation Committee.

23 January 1980