

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 1100 date: 4.2.80

Prime Minister's Engagements

The Prime Minister would shortly be meeting representatives of the Central Council for Physical Recreation and the Sports Council. The CCPR asked last week to see the Prime Minister to discuss the logistical difficulties of re-siting the Olympic Games. The Minister for Sport, Hector Monro, will be present.

At noon Mrs Thatcher would have talks with the Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Fraser. Mr. Fraser is returning to Australia after talks in Washington with President Carter. He is travelling to Bonn tomorrow and Paris on Wednesday.

In the House

We knew of one PNQ: David Winnick to ask Sir Keith Joseph to make a statement on the steel strike.

There would be an answer of interest at 4.30 pm from the Home Office: it dealt with the result of the enquiry into the affairs of the Tote.

Spending Reductions

Lobby could assume that good progress had been made last Thursday, but that there was still some talking to be done between Ministers. We did not know of any particular area which might have to come back to Cabinet. A White Paper covering the years 1980-81 and 1981-84 would be published just before the Budget.

Broadcasting Bill

Expected this Wednesday.

AW

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00

date: 4.2.80

This morning's briefing was repeated.

OLYMPICS

We briefed Lobby as in this morning's Press Office Bulletin. We mentioned that Sir Denis Follows had written again to the Prime Minister on 1 February as a follow up to his letter of 22 January. Correspondents should seek details from the British Olympic Association but we gave a brief indication of the contents of Sir Denis' latest letter as in the underlined passages of the copy attached.

We were asked whether the question of cutting the Government's grant to the Sports Council had been raised in this morning's meeting (Times story). We said that it had been mentioned in passing but that the Prime Minister had made it clear that the Government's policy was to proceed one step at a time. Advice had been given to the British Olympic Association but no other decisions had yet been taken. It was always a possibility that the Government could take a view on the amount of money to be made available to the Sports Council but we emphasised that we were not at that stage yet. The next important step seemed to be deliberations of the International Olympic Committee which would be meeting in Lake Placid in mid-February.

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

Mrs. Thatcher had three hours of talks with Malcolm Fraser including discussions over a working lunch. The occasion had provided a valuable opportunity for talks with a leading member of the Commonwealth and Mrs. Thatcher appreciated being brought up to date on Malcolm Fraser's discussions with President Carter. The two Prime Ministers had discussed Afghanistan and the western reaction to the Soviet Union. This included the question of resiting the Olympic Games on which Mrs. Thatcher and Malcolm Fraser had the same view, namely that the Soviet Union saw the Games as an event of major political significance.

/On Iran,

On Iran, both Prime Ministers expressed their support for the calm and restrained way in which the American Government were handling a delicate situation. On Rhodesia, the two Prime Ministers noted the remarkable progress that had been made at Lancaster House and hoped that Rhodesia could now proceed peacefully towards the elections. Mrs. Thatcher expressed her appreciation for the help and support Australia had given us over Rhodesia and, in particular, their contribution to the monitoring force.

CVA

Press

Our Ref: OL/4/5

The British Olympic Association

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Vice Patron: THE MARQUESS OF EXETER, K.C.M.G., LL.D.

President: LORD RUPERT NEVILL, C.V.O.

Chairman: SIR DENIS FOLLOWS, C.B.E.

Ce MOLBA +4
MAD
Press
SFCO + Sport
Env

Vice Chairman: C. S. PALMER, O.B.E.

Hon. Treasurer: LT-COL. J. INNES



General Secretary: R. W. PALMER
Tel: 01-408 2029

Appeals Secretary: G. H. J. NICHOLSON
Tel: 01-408 2055

1-2 JOHN PRINCE'S STREET, LONDON W1M 0DH

Cables: Bolempic, London W1

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
10 Downing Street
LONDON S.W.1.

1st February 1980.

12/2
Copy all

Dear Prime Minister,

I have now had sufficient response to my letter to the members of the National Olympic Committee following receipt of your letter of 22nd January, to justify my informing you of their reaction.

There is little or no support for the suggestion that the Summer Games be moved from Moscow.

The members of the National Olympic Committee have been assured by the International Olympic Committee that the Moscow Olympic Committee has met all its requirements, and that, to date, the International Olympic Committee has no grounds for abrogating its agreement with the Moscow Organising Committee.

For the reasons stated in my letter of 23rd January, and in particular the attitude of the International Federations, it is not thought possible to consider the fragmentation of the Games.

As the members of the National Olympic Committee see it, unless the International Olympic Committee finds just cause to move the Games from Moscow, there is no alternative to their being held there.

The National Olympic Committee has received an invitation to participate in the Moscow Games. In view of your concern, that of the government and that of many individuals, I have arranged for the question of whether to accept the invitation or not to be placed on the Agenda of a special meeting of the National Olympic Committee convened for 4th March, by which time Officials who are attending the Winter Games in Lake Placid will have returned to this country.

cont/...

Cont/...

- 2 -

You may rest assured that your views, those of a group of Members of Parliament whom we have met, together with the many other views we have received will be considered at that meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Howell