

# British Olympic Appeal



President: The Marquess of Exeter KCMG LLD  
Vice Presidents: Lord Rupert Nevill CVO Sir Denis Follows CBE  
Chairman of the Appeal Council: Sir Anthony Tuke  
Appeals Secretary: G. H. J. Nicholson

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Prime Minister

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PERSONAL

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10th April, 1980

Dear Prime Minister.

I am writing to acknowledge with thanks your letter of 26th March, from which we are naturally sorry to see that you feel you must withdraw your patronage of the Olympic Appeal.

Our Committee, consisting of about a hundred businessmen, was as you know formed last summer and we had just started to raise money when the Russians invaded Afghanistan. Since your statement in the House of Commons, the Committee has in effect gone into hibernation but I have attempted to hold it together and not to seek any publicity in the hope that perhaps the clouds would disperse and a team could go to Moscow with the blessing of all concerned. I have to admit that this looks increasingly unlikely and, as the great majority of our Committee fully support the Government's view, I think the time has almost certainly come for them to stand down. A minority of our Committee may feel that this is wrong as we should stand by the British Olympic Association, even though we disagree with their decision; I do not accept this since we have never sought to influence their decision in any way and it would be quite wrong for us to do so.

As far as money raising is concerned, the position is quite clear; no money has been raised by our Committee since the invasion of Afghanistan and, even if we wanted to approach potential donors now, it is most unlikely that the people on our list, namely the five hundred or so largest companies in this country, would do other than wish to support the Government on a matter of foreign policy.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Tuke

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London.