

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

#### U.S.S.R.—ARREST OF DR. ANDREI SAKHAROV—OFFICIAL PROTEST BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

**Hon. Stanley Haidasz:** Honourable senators, as swiftly moving world events have overtaken us during the recent parliamentary hiatus, I ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate whether the Canadian government has forwarded an official protest following the arrest, degradation and internal exile by the U.S.S.R. of the the eminent scientist, leading human rights activist and Nobel Peace Laureate, Dr. Andrei Sakharov, who dared to condemn the U.S.S.R. intervention in Afghanistan?

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have no knowledge of any such communication, but an inquiry will go forward and information will be sought.

### ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

#### PRICE OF 1980 SILVER DOLLARS

**Hon. Peter Bosa:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government. In view of the great interest that numismatic collectors have shown in the new 1980 Canadian silver dollar, is the leader now in a position to answer the question I put to him some time ago?

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, the information has as yet not been received. It will be made available as soon as it is received.

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#### BOYCOTT OF 1980 OLYMPIC GAMES IN MOSCOW—ALTERNATIVE GAMES SITES

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I should like to address a question to the Leader of the Government in connection with a statement made yesterday in the other place regarding the Olympic Games. As reported to me, the government undertook to support properly organized alternative international sporting competitions as a way of compensating athletes for not having a chance to go to Moscow.

I ask my honourable friend whether the government is considering taking any initiatives in this respect in contrast to supporting alternatives that might be suggested by others?

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Possible alternative sites have been under active study by a number of nations, including Canada. The time frame is such that it may be extremely difficult to organize an international event of this kind in one place. However, a number of governments are studying the possibility of either regional or national alternative games to provide opportunities for athletes who have invested many years of training, effort and money to prepare themselves for Olympic competition.

I understand that the question of some form of alternative games is being pursued actively, not only by Canada, but by a number of other countries as well.

**Senator Roblin:** That is an encouraging response, honourable senators, but I should like to ask my honourable friend if he does not think it would be possible for the Government of Canada to take an initiative of its own on this subject. I had in mind the fact that in several cities in this country there are existing Olympic class facilities. Certainly in the city of Montreal there are, and also in the city of Winnipeg. I am sure there are Olympic class facilities available in other parts of the country as well.

While I appreciate that the Government of Canada might not feel inclined to move on this in terms of the Canadian picture alone, I am sure that if it took an initiative it might receive a favourable response from the provinces and cities concerned. What bothers me is the concept of this matter being allowed to drift. Time is a problem, as my honourable friend has said, but the longer we allow it to drift—and in Canada we have let it drift for several weeks, to say the least—the harder it becomes to do anything. Somebody should stand up and say, "Look here, we are concerned about these athletes who have dedicated their lives for the past four years to training for the Olympic Games, and we propose to do something ourselves." These athletes are, in a sense, the innocent victims, and if this were to take place, it would be a very heartening initiative, and I ask my honourable friend to urge the government to take it.

• (1500)

**Senator Perrault:** Honourable senators, the policy of the Canadian government with respect to the Olympic boycott issue represents anything but "drift" and "indecision." Since this government assumed its responsibilities following the February 18 election, we have been in continuing contact with other nations in an attempt to evolve a united position.

**Senator Flynn:** Who are your allies—the socialists?

**Senator Perrault:** That initiative has resulted in the declaration by an ever-increasing number of nations that they, too, intend to boycott the Olympic Games in Moscow. It has always been the Canadian position that there should be a strong and united approach on the part of as many nations as possible with respect to the boycott.

The plight of the athletes has always been a matter of profound concern as far as this government is concerned. A number of initiatives have been launched, not only by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but also by the Honourable Gerald Regan, who, in addition to being Minister of Labour, is Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, to determine ways in which the excellence of these athletes can be brought to the attention of the Canadian people and the people of the world, as well as ways in which their competitive abilities can be measured in some type of meet or event.

Various proposals have been studied. We discussed earlier the idea of holding alternative games at one site, and it was determined that there would be very serious practical impedi-