

present intention on the part of the USSR to create them. We have said from the beginning that an Olympic boycott would be advisable only if effective. Our policy has therefore been to work actively towards an effective boycott. In the course of the last several weeks, we have canvassed our friends in the Western Alliance and Third World states to determine whether a boycott of the Moscow Olympics would be an effective instrument in displaying our abhorrence of the actions of the USSR in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister took a personal initiative in writing a number of world leaders on the subject. The results of these consultations, coupled with conversations I had with foreign ministers present during the recent independence celebrations in Zimbabwe have convinced the Government that the criteria for an effective boycott are now clearly present. I expect similar announcements in support of an effective boycott by other governments within the next days.

To ask our athletes, who have been training for four years and more for their chance at an Olympic gold medal, to forego that chance is a hard thing for any free country to ask of its citizens. The Government is, however, convinced that withdrawal from the Olympics is the clearest and most effective way available to make plain to the leaders of the Soviet Union that the world condemns the

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