

BOYCOTT SEEN

BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES MIGHT BOYCOTT THE 1990 GAMES IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND. THEY'RE UPSET ABOUT PLANS BY BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN ATHLETES TO TOUR SOUTH AFRICA. IN 1986, NEARLY HALF THE ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES BOYCOTTED THE GAMES IN EDINBURGH.

CANADA WILL PROPOSE ON WEDNESDAY THAT A PROGRAM BE INSTITUTED TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PLAY HOST TO THE GAMES.

CANADA IS RECOMMENDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE HOST COUNTRY; TRANSPORT SUBSIDIES TO ASSIST PARTICIPATION; CREATION OF A COMMONWEALTH GAMES TRUST TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS; AND A REVAMPING OF THE GAMES, HEADQUARTERS OPERATION.

THE LAST TIME THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES WERE HELD IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WAS IN 1966 IN JAMAICA. THE GAMES ARE TO BE HELD IN VICTORIA IN 1994, BUT THERE IS INTEREST FROM KENYA, BARBADOS AND JAMAICA TO HOST THE GAMES IN 1998.

SIR SHRIDATH RAMPHAL, THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL, SAID HE CONDEMNS THE BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN ATHLETES FOR "HAVING ALLOWED GREED TO GET THE BETTER OF PRINCIPLE." BUT HE CAUTIONED AGAINST ANY BOYCOTT THAT WOULD HURT COMMONWEALTH ATHLETES.

ASIDE FROM CANADA AND AUSTRALIA, THE COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE ARE GUYANA, INDIA, NIGERIA, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE.

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