

APPENDIX "A"

(See p. 71)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

"AFGHANISTAN AND THE OLYMPICS"—STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Soviet Union's move into Afghanistan at the turn of the year caught the world by shocked surprise. The depth of international opposition can be measured by the strength of the vote in the Emergency Session of the United Nations General Assembly called to deal with the question in early January: one hundred and four governments cast their votes in condemnation of Soviet action.

That action continues. The Soviet leaders are proceeding to tighten their hold on what was, and has been for decades, an independent neighbouring country.

Such international behaviour cannot go unheeded. The country responsible cannot claim for itself immunity from the consequences of its own freely chosen course of action.

There has been broad agreement internationally that the Soviet action can only be met by concrete measures, adopted by members of the international community as expressions of concern over unacceptable and unjustifiable policies. These measures are not, and cannot be uniform: nor can they themselves secure the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. They do, however, reflect a full range of national reactions which when added together constitute an impressive and deliberate demonstration of world opposition to the Soviet invasion.

For its part, and after the fullest consultation with allies and friends, Canada adopted a broad spectrum of measures under the previous Government which have been reaffirmed by the present Government. Visits to the Soviet Union by ministers and high-level officials have been cancelled. Similarly a wide range of exchanges in education, culture and sport, along with a wide variety of exports of manufactured goods and agricultural products have been halted. Thus, Canadians in a broad spectrum of fields of endeavour—artists, sportsmen, farmers, academics and businessmen, to name a few—have been called upon to make sacrifices in the process of Canada's response to Soviet aggression.

In the framework of the Government's reaction to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, one issue has remained undecided: participation in the 1980 Olympic Games, scheduled to be held in Moscow in July. This Government believes that the international situation brought about by Soviet aggression in Afghanistan makes it wholly inappropriate to hold the Olympics in Moscow.

Since taking office, the Government has maintained that it is up to the Soviet Union to create the conditions under which the Games may properly take place. Obviously, such condi-

tions do not now exist. Furthermore, there is no 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 Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan and its defiance of international demands for its withdrawal. If as the Soviet Union claims, the 1980 Olympics are a vindication of Soviet policies, then by not participating in those Games, we repeat to the Soviet leadership and the Soviet people that the Soviet Government's actions in Afghanistan stand condemned by the world.

The Canadian Olympic Association has requested a firm indication of the Government's position in this matter. The Government has considered the situation thoroughly. We have decided that the circumstances leave us no choice but to urge the Canadian Olympic Association to inform the Organization Committee for the 1980 Olympics that Canadian athletes will not be participating in the Games. The Government does not intend to use coercion to bring about a withdrawal. It will not revoke passports or take powers to circumscribe the right of Canadians to travel freely abroad. But should Canadian athletes participate in Moscow, they will do so without the moral or financial support of the Government of Canada.

Several nations are actively planning for athletic events in which their athletes can participate as some compensation for not having gone to Moscow. If Canadian athletes, through