

It is totally naive to talk, as boycott opponents do, of "injecting politics" into the Olympic Games. Unfortunately, the Soviet Union's approach to the Olympics is highly political itself. That is the reality to which we in the west must respond, and as a Canadian I am proud that our government has. Unlike the International Olympic Committee, the Russians do not pretend that politics and sports do not mix. The 1980 Soviet Communist Party handbook declares that holding the 1980 games in Moscow will be:

—convincing testimony of the general recognition of the historic importance and correctness of the foreign policy course of our country.

Honourable senators, the Nazis before the 1936 Games were no more straightforward than that in declaring their views.

It appears that the recent purge of dissidents in the Soviet Union is directly related to the Moscow Games. Peter Reddaway, a distinguished lecturer at the London School of Economics and an expert on Soviet internal dissent, describes their policy in a recent publication. Honourable senators, allow me to put a few relevant passages on the record:

The present purge is basically a pre-Olympian exercise, and well illustrates the inseparability of sports and politics in the Soviet Union. For many months, the KGB has been striking against people in the provinces. Far from stopping political oppression when the trials of Orlov, Shcharansky, and others ended in August 1978, the authorities simply turned their attention away from Moscow to individuals and groups whose fate aroused less interest abroad . . . In fact, since August 1978 no fewer than 97 trials have taken place on which reliable information has reached the outside world. Two hundred and seventeen people have either been sentenced at these trials, or forcibly interned in mental hospitals without trial, or are now in pre-trial detention . . . Beyond these cases, which mostly involve the court system, thousands of people have been interrogated during the last 17 months in connection with political cases, and nearly a thousand have had their homes searched by police. Many of these have been dismissed from their jobs, threatened with arrest, subjected to KGB blackmail, forced into emigration or assaulted by officially sponsored thugs . . . Two people have committed suicide as a direct consequence of KGB persecution, and two more have been murdered in circumstances strongly suggesting official direction . . . Those who oppose a boycott of the Games, seeing them as a chance for foreigners to talk to Russians, might ponder, among other things, the terrible price that dissidents are being forced to pay by the regime.

Honourable senators, surely we all appreciate the value and use of an Olympic boycott. Totalitarian regimes have a great need for legitimacy that democracies do not fully understand. The need to have examples on a regular basis of international respectability and adulation is absolutely basic to a totalitarian regime's program of sustaining public support and compliance. The Soviets have always taken sports very seriously in this regard. We all know that their "amateur athletes" train often

as part of the military—as part of the forces of the state serving the purposes of the state.

The preparations in Moscow have been extensive and expensive. An Olympic Games without America, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan and many others—or indeed a cancelled Games—would be noticed by the average Soviet citizen. Questions would circulate within a population deeply interested in sports. What Soviet propaganda now treats as a local police action in Afghanistan can now be seen, even to them, as having far more consequence. I believe that we have gained the attention of millions of Soviets through the clear symbolism of an international boycott of the Olympic Games.

● (1620)

Honourable senators, surely we all applaud the boycott. Hopefully, we ourselves will do more than just boycott. Hopefully, we will seek to broaden and deepen the commitment to the boycott among non-aligned nations in Africa, the Middle East, South America and other parts of the world.

Let us for a moment look at what the Soviets have done in the past. They have not been bashful. The Soviet Union has a long and consistent history of boycotting international sporting events. Until 1952 the "bourgeois Olympic movement" itself was boycotted.

Let me give you a few examples of boycotts by the Soviet Union. The qualifying round of the 1974 Soccer World Cup was boycotted because it was held in Chile; the 1976 Chess Olympics were boycotted because they were held in Israel; the 1979 Women's World Basketball Championship was boycotted because South Korea was the host. Numerous sporting events have been boycotted by the Soviet Union because they were held in West Berlin.

The evidence is clear. The Soviet Union has used the Olympics as an instrument of national policy. As such, it is also clear that Moscow has invested heavily in the Games. Let me quote from *Time* magazine of January 28:

There is probably no single action short of war that would punish Moscow more than to have the Olympics taken away or spoiled.

For those who worry sincerely about the Olympic movement, I offer the view that the Olympic movement will survive quite comfortably, having been unused by the Soviets for propaganda gains at a time of Soviet adventurism. That is as important to the credibility of the Games as any other standard of judgment.

Honourable senators, Canada has acted as a key player in the wider context of a world where peace can only be sustained through a clear determination on the part of the nations of the west to stand united.

Before concluding, I should like to thank the many honourable senators on both sides of the house who have encouraged me respecting this motion. I am appreciative of their kind and encouraging words. I wish to address a particular word of thanks to the Honourable Joe Sullivan. As we all know, Senator Sullivan, because of ill health, has been unable to attend our sittings. However, he tells me that he is following