

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 Organizing 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 their accredited sport governing bodies,