



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA:

TUESDAY 15 APRIL 1980

## OLYMPIC GAMES BOYCOTT

### STATEMENT BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister has sent the following telegram to all delegates attending the meeting of the Australian Olympic Federation in Melbourne at the weekend:

"The Government has today reaffirmed its view that because of the continued Soviet aggression in Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, it is in Australia's national interest to stand with other countries who have condemned this action and not send a team to the Moscow Olympics.

The Government confidently expects that the decision made by the U.S. Olympic Committee will be followed in other countries and that there will be an effective boycott.

I ask that as a delegate to the Australian Olympic Federation, you support a decision not to send an Australian team to Moscow.

Because of the unstable situation in the Persian Gulf which the Soviet Union has caused, and the implications to other countries, the Government's view is that it is not in the interests of our national security for Australia to take part in the Moscow Olympics.

I strongly urge you to take these national interests fully into account, and to support an immediate decision by the Federation not to go to Moscow."

The Government will be taking further steps later in the week to explain its position to the Australian Olympic Federation.

Arrangements have been made for myself, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Minister for Home Affairs to meet the Executive of the Australian Olympic Federation in Melbourne on Friday.

The President of the Federation, Mr. Grange has also agreed to my request to address the plenary session of the Federation on Saturday morning.

Through these initiatives, the Government wishes to ensure that delegates are fully aware of the issues involved before they cast their votes.