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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS

I welcome the announcement by the Australian Olympic Federation to defer a final decision on whether the Australian team should go to Moscow.

The issues facing the AOF have been difficult for them and I appreciate the manner in which the Federation have gone about their task.

I am sure that the AOF Executive will act with the highest responsibility in the decision that now lies ahead.

The Government asked the AOF not to send an Australian team to Moscow because of the national interest.

The Government has the responsibility for the security of every Australian.

We have a clear obligation to stand with our allies and support them in a matter of such fundamental importance.

My recent talks in Zimbabwe with leaders of other nations strongly reinforced my belief that there will be an effective boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

Other Governments and other national Olympic Committees have decided or will decide to support the boycott.

Amongst Asian and Pacific nations - in our part of the world - there is general support for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

Australia has an obligation to be part of that boycott. I believe we will be.