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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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If you have any comments re
attached memo, please have
them to me by 7:00 p.m. today.

Bill Simon

Administratively
Confidential

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 30, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: LLOYD CUTLER
JOE ONEK

SUBJECT: Olympics

As you know, the USOC agreed to go to the IOC on February 9 to seek a transfer, cancellation, or postponement of the Games. In their Resolution, they did not indicate what they would do if turned down by the IOC. Privately, they realize that they are not going, but do not want to take a public position that sounds like supporting a boycott, for fear of sanctions under IOC rules. Their public position does support the President's request and was voted unanimously.

This vote, however, covers over a deep split within the organization. The majority, exemplified by President Robert Kane, feel like victims -- they feel that pressure from the President and the Congress forced them to take their position. There is a strong minority element, however, that believes that the USOC should take a strong, independent position not to go to Moscow because of Soviet aggression. Now that they are publicly committed, I expect that more members of the USOC will begin to embrace their position a little more enthusiastically over the next two weeks.

Strong efforts are being made to persuade other governments, Olympic Committees, and the International Sports Federations to support moving, canceling, or postponing the Moscow 1980 Games. The major western European Olympic Committees are meeting in Frankfurt on Friday.

There are several decisions which need to be made in the near future:

- (1) The USOC will make a presentation of their position to Lord Killanin and the Executive Board of the IOC on February 9 in Lake Placid. According to IOC rules, the opening ceremony of the IOC business session is to be addressed by the host country Head of State or designee. It is at this occasion that we can state our case directly to all 89 members of the IOC.

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You must decide whom to send as your designee to the IOC meeting. Originally your advisers were thinking in terms of a New York political figure -- Governor Carey, Lieutenant Governor Cuomo or Senator Moynihan. In light of current developments it seems to make more sense to send someone who can vigorously advocate the Administration's position on the Olympics. In my view, the designee should be Senator Bill Bradley. Bradley is an Olympic Gold Medal Winner. In 1976, as you know, he wrote a New York Times article criticizing the choice of Moscow as a site and predicting just the kind of crisis which has now occurred.

Bradley strongly supports a permanent home for the Olympics in Greece. His testimony Monday on the Olympic issue before the SFRC was excellent, as was his appearance on the Today Show Tuesday. If he is willing to present the Administration's "legal case" and submerge some of his personal views on the Olympics, he would be an outstanding choice.

One disadvantage to using Bradley is that it might anger other political figures, e.g., Moynihan. Both Watson and Moore, however, believe this disadvantage is outweighed by the benefits of using Bradley. The other objection is raised by the State Department. They argue that other nations, particularly in the third world, do not know Bradley and will find it confusing that a Senator, rather than a State Department or White House official, is speaking on behalf of the President.

The logical alternatives to Bradley would seem to be Secretary Vance, if he is available, or myself. (I expect to be at Lake Placid to pursue the matter in any event.) Either of us could present your position effectively but we would have none of the special glamour or appeal to athletes (and Olympic officials) that Bradley provides.

_____ Bradley (if he is willing)

_____ Secretary Vance (if he is available)

_____ Lloyd Cutler

(As I understand it the Vice President will formally open the Games. This is ideal; two previous Olympic Games in this country have been opened by Vice Presidents.)

(2) The USOC is realistically concerned that both its corporate and individual contributions will decline dramatically given the likelihood of nonparticipation in Moscow. This of course would greatly impair the Committee's ability to train athletes for alternative 1980 games as well as for 1984. In your remarks

at the February 1 conference on "Sports for All," we have included praise for the USOC. There are further steps that, as Honorary President of the USOC, you might wish to take. First, you might write to the CEOs of the leading corporate contributors to the USOC requesting that, despite the uncertainty with respect to the 1980 Games, they continue their generous support of the USOC. The letter could point out that if the Games are canceled, transferred or postponed or if alternative Games are scheduled, USOC will have even greater need for funds.

Second, you could do a television spot for the USOC (you previously did participate in the Committee's TV Olympathon). Such a spot, stressing your commitment to the USOC, the Olympic Games and American athletes, might be particularly effective if broadcast during the Lake Placid Games.

_____ Approve letter to the corporate executives

_____ Approve TV spot

(3) Athletes remain, quite naturally, the group most hostile to nonparticipation in the Olympics, although many are supporting us. The athletes do not trust the USOC and they deserve special attention.

In your remarks to the "Sports for All" meeting, we have included praise for the Nation's athletes. I believe that the First Lady, Vice President and other surrogates should also take every opportunity to express admiration and support for the Nation's athletes. We are also considering whether it makes sense to hold a briefing or briefings for the athletes in the White House or around the country.

_____ Agree that the Administration, with the USOC, should organize a few briefings for athletes

_____ Agree to participate personally in a White House briefing.

(4) It has been suggested to us that Lord Killanin and Madame Berlioux, the powerful Executive Secretary of the IOC, would appreciate an invitation to meet with you in the White House. I will have a better idea about this after my own meetings this weekend. If indeed they do wish such

an invitation, would you be willing to meet with them? I believe such a meeting could be beneficial.

Approve meeting with Lord Killanin and Madame Berlioux

Disapprove meeting with Lord Killanin and Madame Berlioux.