



Moscow 1980



No to the boycott
by Lord Killanin,
President of the IOC



The 1980 Olympic Games were awarded to Moscow at the Session of the International Olympic Committee in 1974 and an agreement was entered into between the IOC and the Moscow Organising Committee, which so far has carried out all the requirements of this agreement. Suggestions from politicians that the Games should be moved to another site are impractical and, due to this agreement, impossible as the IOC naturally abides by any agreement made.



There have been suggestions not to accept invitations, coming from politicians, but the decision rests solely with the National Olympic Committees. The United States Olympic Committee has strongly criticised President Carter's introduction of the use of the Olympic Games for political purposes.



In the press, presidents of National Olympic Committees are reported as not wishing to boycott the Games in Moscow. Further, all National Olympic Committees and International Federations with which I have had contact have stressed that the Games should not be used for political purposes by any of the parties concerned. IOC members have explained that the allocation of the Games is a matter for the IOC and not for political figures.



I would like to confirm the position that participation rests with each NOC and each individual competitor, but I sincerely hope that all those interested in the Olympic Games in 1980 and the future will not allow the Games to be dictated to by politics which are outside the control of the IOC. The Moscow Organising Committee will be reporting again to the IOC in Lake Placid.

L. K.

