

At the close of the Session

*Statement by Lord Killanin,
President of the IOC*

(Unanimously approved by the 82nd Session, meeting in Lake Placid, 10-12 February 1980)

The Games of the XXIIInd Olympiad were awarded to the City of Moscow by the 75th Session of the International Olympic Committee, and an agreement was signed between the parties on 23rd October 1974. All preparations have been made in keeping with the terms of that agreement and consistent with the rules of the IOC.

The prime responsibility of the IOC is to the young athletes of the world ; and to ensure that the Olympic Games are held every four years in accordance with the principles, and within the rules, of the IOC.

The International Olympic Committee is fully aware of, and sensitive to, the world conditions which have created the most serious challenge to confront the Olympic Games.

Many governments have stated that the athletes of their countries would not be encouraged, and might even be forbidden, to take part in the Games in Moscow this year.

The United States Olympic Committee made representations to the IOC at the request of the President of the United States, and these have been debated and discussed, together with all other suggestions.

All 143 recognised National Olympic Committees are bound by the Olympic Rules. They alone can accept or refuse invitations to the Olympic Games, after consultation with their members, the majority of whom must represent federations whose sport is on the Olympic Programme. It must be recalled that the technical aspects of the Olympic Games are the responsibility of the International Sports Federations, which have always supported the IOC.

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The Executive Council of the Association of National Olympic Committees, meeting in Mexico earlier this month, unanimously recommended to the IOC to retain Moscow as the site of the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad.

Many NOCs have been placed in a very difficult position in relation to their governments and public opinion. Every effort will be made through the IOC, its members, and the NOCs, to inform governments and public of the principles and aims of the Olympic movement.

Time is of importance and the final acceptances or refusals of the invitations to the Games in Moscow have to be made by 24th May.

The IOC recognises particularly the difficulties in which the United States Olympic Committee finds itself and encourages it to continue its efforts to make possible the participation of its athletes in the Games.

Also, the IOC urges the Organising Committee in Moscow, and the National Olympic Committee of the USSR, to inform the highest authorities of their governments of the circumstances which have created these difficulties for so many NOCs.

The very existence of the Olympic Games, the Olympic movement, and the organisation of sport through the International Federations, is at stake.

All 73 members present at the 82nd Session of the International Olympic Committee are unanimous that the Games must be held in Moscow as planned.

The International Olympic Committee cannot solve the political problems of the world, but calls upon the governments of all countries, and in particular those of the major powers, to come together to resolve their differences, and I, as President of the IOC, and all members, will do everything in our power to assist in this so that the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad can take place in the right atmosphere.

Lake Placid, 12th February 1980.

