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Mr Butt AFB 13/2
Embassy

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CALL BY MR CUTLER ON MR HURD AND MR MONRO AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE AT 10.00 ON 4 FEBRUARY 1980

THE OLYMPICS

Present:

Hon D Hurd, Minister of State
Mr H Monro, Minister of State, DOE
Lord N Gordon Lennox
Mr Palmer, DOE
Mr Macrae
Mr Berthoud
Mr Humpfrey
Mr Sharland

Mr Yoyd Cutler (Adviser to
President Carter on Olympic
Affairs)
HE Mr Kingman Brewster
US Ambassador
Mr McKinley, US Embassy

1. Mr Cutler said that the Americans were lobbying hard for support for a change of venue. They had had considerable success in all parts of the world except Europe. The critical issue now seemed to be whether Governments could successfully influence their National Olympic Committees. In the United States there was no problem because public ^{and} congressional opinion was so firmly behind the President. He would be seeing representatives of the British Sports Federation and British Olympic Association in an attempt to influence them.

2. Mr Hurd said that the British Government's position was well know. We favoured a move from Moscow. Should that fail it was his personal opinion that the Government would recommend a boycott but a final decision had not been taken. The Government had so far not encouraged a parliamentary debate for fear that the House would divide roughly on party lines. Opinion here was more divided than in the United States though it was moving in the right direction. Mr Hurd feared that if the Government advised a boycott a majority of athletes would still go to Moscow. We therefore wanted relocation but were so far unable to suggest an alternative site. Canada could not apparently provide it. Since our position would be stronger if we had an alternative site to offer, would the United States be prepared to propose Los Angeles?

3. Mr Cutler said that Los Angeles was not available in 1980 but his Government would prefer an alternative site outside the United States so as to avoid the appearance of a direct confrontation with the Soviet Union. He did not think the Canadian position was yet definite.

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