

*Editorial Column*  
**THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL**

A Scripps-Howard Newspaper

MICHAEL GREHL, Editor  
Published by The Memphis Publishing Co.  
495 Union Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38101  
JOSEPH R. WILLIAMS, Business Manager

The Memphis Commercial ..... Established 1889  
The Appeal ..... Established 1840  
The Avalanche ..... Established 1867  
Consolidated July 1, 1894

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Thursday, January 17, 1980

# Boycott The Olympics

THE CARTER administration has said it won't make a final decision about the summer Olympics in Moscow until mid-February. But the delay amounts to little more than an unwillingness to discount even the most implausible change in U.S.-Soviet relations.

Support of the Moscow games depends, the administration says, on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The Soviet Union has given no indication it will make such a move. To the contrary, one

avoid direct armed conflict with the Soviet Union, the United States and its allies should be ready to do anything that will inconvenience and impede the Soviet government.

LORD KILLANIN, president of the International Olympic Committee, and other IOC leaders have argued that the Olympics are dedicated to sports and that politics and sports should never be mixed. But nothing is simply a "game" to the Kremlin. To send athletes to Moscow now, in the face of Soviet occupation of a once-independent country, would say to the world, "Things aren't as bad as they seem. The games can still go on." It would play right into the Kremlin's hand of turning the summer Olympics into an international propaganda spectacle — and a neat little killing for the lagging Soviet economy. It would confirm what appears to be the Kremlin's belief that the West has no stomach for the dislocations of an unalleviated fight.

The invasion of Afghanistan presents a challenge to the United States to meet the Soviet Union head-on — to pursue its own interests at every possible turn and to thwart those of the Kremlin in every way it can. When will this country ever be in a better position to do that?

Refusal to participate in Moscow this summer would be only a small inconvenience compared with the sacrifices that will have to be made if Soviet imperialism is to be checked. For years to come, U.S. domestic affairs are likely to be governed by the necessities of international politics. The Kremlin is right. The West will have to put up with severe dislocations if it intends to protect itself. But anyone who can imagine what the world would be like under the domination of totalitarian regimes should be willing to put up with a great deal.

Even if the Soviet Union should end the Afghanistan occupation — as unlikely as that is — the fact of the invasion could not be erased, or the readiness of the Kremlin to test the West at any other opportunity. The war would still be on. And it would still be in the best interests of this country to refuse to give the Kremlin the propaganda advantages of the Moscow games.

THE PRESSURE FOR a boycott is growing. More than 100 members of the British Parliament have urged the British government to cancel its participation. It was reported yesterday from London that Prince Philip, who is also president of the International Equestrian Federation, may be asked by government ministers not to attend the games in Moscow. Canada already has said it's willing to take the lead in having the summer games moved to Munich or Montreal, where Olympic facilities are still in place.

We hope that other countries that feel as the United States does about freedom and the independence of nations will reach the same conclusion independently. But there is no longer any doubt about what the Carter administration and the U.S. Olympic Committee should do. The games in Moscow should be boycotted.



Lord Killanin

Soviet diplomat has been quoted as saying that his country intends to set up a missile system in Afghanistan as a counter to NATO missiles in Western Europe.

The deadline and the condition appear tantamount to a request that the U.S. Olympic Committee not send American athletes to Moscow. And there's no way to avoid that decision without rolling over to Soviet aggression.

In plain fact, the United States and the rest of the Free World are engaged in a long and critical struggle with a government whose overriding goal is to dominate the world.

If the Soviet Union ever gained control over the Persian Gulf and the supply line of oil to the West, there can be no doubt that it would hold oil hostage to its international demands. The drive into Afghanistan was on a direct route toward the Arabian Sea and the mouth of the Persian Gulf.

Shorn of euphemism, this struggle is a war in which the freedoms and political traditions of the West are fighting for survival against a totalitarian philosophy that sees itself as an agent of predetermined history. In some places — Ethiopia, Southeast Asia, North and South Yemen, Southern Africa and now Afghanistan — it has been a shooting war.

While every effort should be made to