



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
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My ref:

Your ref:

21 April 1982

R E G Jeeps Esq CBE
Chairman
The Sports Council
16 Upper Woburn Place
LONDON WC1H 0QP

~~Prime Minister~~

A.J.C. 21/4

Dear Sir:

At our meeting last week we discussed briefly the question of sporting contacts with Argentina. I undertook to write to you setting out the Government's policy on such contacts as seen in present circumstances.

You have already provided my officials with some details of forthcoming international events and competitions scheduled over the next few months in which British and Argentinian teams may take part. At present, the Government has no objection to British involvement in international sporting events and competitions involving Argentina and other countries. However, I urge all British sports governing bodies to refrain from bi-lateral competition against Argentinian teams, whether here or in Argentina, and to refrain from arranging further fixtures. The FCO is, in any case, advising all UK nationals against visiting Argentina for any purpose. I enclose a copy of a Parliamentary Question which I am answering in the House this afternoon.

This therefore means that I must formally ask you to ensure that the Sports Council withholds for the time being any grant-aid for governing bodies or individuals that would normally be available to support such visits or matches in the UK or Argentina. You will of course wish to advise governing bodies of my direction, and I should be grateful if at the same time you would advise them of the Government's views outlined in the preceding paragraph and in my written Answer.

The Government is keeping its overall policy towards Argentina under constant review. I cannot therefore rule out the possibility that we may find it necessary to seek a wider sporting boycott of Argentina as part of our more general diplomatic and political response to the invasion of the Falkland Islands. I shall of course let you know immediately of any changes in the Government's attitude so far as sport is affected.

Neil Macfarlane

NEIL MACFARLANE