



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 August 1982

Pme Minister

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Dear Tim,

Sporting Policy Towards Argentina

At the time of the Falklands crisis we agreed with the DOE that sporting contacts between the United Kingdom and Argentina in either country should be discouraged and that the Sports Council should be advised not to offer financial support for such events. With the ending of overt hostilities in the Falklands and following our decision to end visa restrictions, we have decided, again in consultation with the DOE, to lift these restrictions, and that our sporting policy towards Argentina should be the same as towards any other country except South Africa.

I mention this because we have just learned that an Argentine team has arrived in the UK to take part in the World Cycling Championships due to begin in Leicester on 23 August. I suppose it is possible that Argentine participation could give rise to some adverse publicity or even demonstrations. If necessary we shall say to the press that the Government no longer consider it necessary to discourage sporting contacts with Argentina and that it follows that there is no reason why an Argentine team should not participate in the World Cycling Championships at Leicester next week which is being organised by the Union Cycliste Internationale (the international body responsible for cycling) with the help of the British Cycling Federation.

I am copying this to the Private Secretaries to the Home Secretary and to the Minister for Sport.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private SecretaryT Flesher Esq  
10 Downing Street

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Sport  
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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

25 August 1982

Thank you for your letter of 19 August about sporting policy towards Argentina which the Prime Minister has noted without comment.

I am copying this letter to John Halliday (Home Office) and Warwick Smith (DOE (Sport)).

TIMOTHY FLESHER

John Holmes Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office