

27

C

C. 4524  
143  
29 MAY 1935

1935

GERMANY

File Number:—  
C 239

CENTRAL.

Registry Number } C 4324/239/18

FROM Yacht Racing Association.

No. —

Dated 27th May:1935

Received in Registry } 29th May:1935

C : Germany.

Religious persecution in Germany.

Transmits letter of 14th May received from Archbishop of York forwarding copy letter of same date sent to British Olympic Association asking that body to send letter to Herr Hitler (draft enclosed) appealing to him to inaugurate forthcoming Olympic games by declaring amnesty for benefit of all those imprisoned for religious or racial reasons.

Enquires whether Yacht Racing Association may properly accede to Archbishop's request that they should support this appeal.

Last Paper.

C4170

References.

(Minutes.)

The enclosures are a cyclostyle-duplicated circular which has, I suppose, been addressed to all associations which are sending teams, under the auspices of the British Olympic Association to Berlin, for the Olympic games.

I think we can answer that we can express no opinion on this question unless the matter is brought to our notice by the body which proposes actually to send the letter.

Inf. Crowell  
31/V.

Henry. pit.  
We have a strict rule of abstention from any official intervention in any matter connected with the Olympic Games. More than ever should we observe it in this case  
S.S. 6.VI.35

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Yacht Racing Ass'n  
June 13  
copy comes to Berlin  
Chancery with (Depts) comp  
June 13

(Action completed.)

S.M.  
13/6

(Index.)

16  
MAY 16

Next Paper.

C.4361.

GERMANY

1935



2c + 3c of ends  
Yacht Racing Association.

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Address—  
MAJOR B. HECKSTALL-SMITH,  
Secretary, Y.R.A.,  
St. Mary Cray,  
Kent.

Telegrams: "Heckstall-Smith,  
St. Mary Cray"

C. 4524

ST. MARY CRAY,  
KENT.

29 MAY 1935

Private and Confidential

May 27<sup>th</sup> 1935

Sir,

I am directed by the Council of the Yacht Racing Association to forward to you :

1. a letter from His Grace the Archbishop of York to me, as Secretary of this Association.
2. a copy of a letter which the Archbishop has sent to the Olympic Games Committee, which we understand to be the British Olympic Association 77 Eccleston Sq. SW.
3. a copy of a letter which the Archbishop wishes that body, the B.O.A., to send to Hitler.

My Council is of opinion that the proper course for them to adopt is to ask the Foreign Office whether they might with propriety accede to the wish of the Archbishop? in fact my Council desire your guidance because the subject is not one with which they have any special qualification to deal and they do not wish to take any step which would not meet with your approval.

I am, Sir

Your obedient servant

The Under Secretary of State  
Foreign Office  
London

B. Heckstall-Smith

Secretary



COPY

(C 4324/239/18)

Private and Confidential

Bishopthorpe,  
York.

145

14th May, 1935.

Dear Sir,

I enclose for the consideration of your committee a copy of a letter which I have today sent to the Olympic Games Committee, and a copy of a letter which I hope that the Olympic Committee will send to Herr Hitler.

If your committee can agree to support this appeal, I shall be extremely grateful.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) WILLIAM EBOR.



145<sup>A</sup>

COPY

(C 4324/239/18)

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Bisnophorpe,  
York.

14th May, 1935.

Dear Sirs,

I hope you will forgive me for approaching you on this subject, but I know that many people, including many athletes feel strongly about it. The nature of our concern is indicated in the enclosed letter which I hope your Committee may see its way to send to Herr Hitler.

I am assured by those who know Germany well, and who are in close touch with German athletes, that an appeal of this description will be welcomed by the saner elements in Germany, who hate the present tendencies as much as we do. Furthermore I am assured that the British Olympic Committee might easily succeed where all others have failed.

It is difficult, perhaps, for an Englishman, so I have been told, to realise the enormous prestige of Great Britain in the world of sport, a prestige which is unaffected either by our victories or by our defeats in particular sporting events, but which depends on the fact that we invented most of the games which we have taught the world to play, and that we are still regarded as the final court of appeal in everything which concerns the spirit in which games should be played.

I am assured that those who are entirely unaffected by any appeal to the old-fashioned moral code, and who accept with equanimity the all but universal condemnation of cruelty and injustice which have stained the records of the present regime in

/Germany



COPY

(C 4324/239/18)

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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

The British Olympic Committee have resolved to appeal to Your Excellency to follow the precedent of the ancient Olympic Games which were, as Your Excellency is aware, inaugurated by a general truce.

We appeal to Your Excellency to show yourself no less generous than the Greeks, and to issue a general act of amnesty for the benefit of all those who are suffering imprisonment for religious or racial reasons.

International sport may either conduce to friendly relations or exasperate unfriendly relations. If the Olympic Games in Germany in to fulfil their historic mission, they must, as Your Excellency will agree, open in an atmosphere of friendship and reconciliation. Your Excellency will readily understand the special reluctance of athletes who are also sincere Christians to compete in a country in which religious papers are being suppressed, and in which Christians are being imprisoned or interned for loyalty to their faith.

His Excellency Herr Adolf Hitler.



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F. O.,

M.J.C.

13<sup>th</sup> June, 1935.

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Draft

+2c

The Secretary,

Yacht Racing Association,

St. Mary Bray,  
Kent.

Sir,

With ref<sup>ce</sup> to

~~I am directed by Secretary Sir John~~

~~Simon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter~~

~~of May 27th and to state that he is unwilling~~

~~to express an opinion on the propriety or~~

~~to be adopted by the Yacht Racing~~

~~Association towards the request~~

~~addressed to you, as Secretary of~~

~~that Association, by the Archbishops~~

~~of York, regarding a letter~~

~~2. The Secretary of State notes that~~

~~which, His Grace proposes, should be sent~~

~~to the Chancellor of the German~~

~~Reich in connexion with the~~

~~subject in question, and in view of this it~~

~~might be inadvisable for them to support an~~

~~Committee in connexion with~~

~~the forthcoming Olympic~~

~~Games in January.~~

~~Council of the Yacht Racing Association whether~~

~~or not they should accede to the request of~~

~~the Archbishop of York.~~

I am to inform you that this matter dealt with herein, that is to say the attitude to be adopted by a private association, is not one on which His Grace's Dept is able to advise you

Library first.

RRS.  
12/6

4/11

[Could we send copy of some of the copies to Berlin?

See minute. S.S. 6.vi.35]

Copy course Berlin Chancery.

2 The end! Copy letters are returned herewith.

(Ed.) R. F. Wigram



C 4324/239/18

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FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W. 1.

13th June, 1935.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 27th May, I am directed by Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare to inform you that the matter dealt with therein is not one on which this department is able to advise you.

2. The enclosures to your letter are returned herewith.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) P. F. Wiggins

The Secretary,

Yacht Racing Association,

St. Mary Cray,

Kent.



# The National Archives

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