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E.C. STATEMENT ON THE OLYMPIC GAMES AND AFGHANISTAN

The nine foreign ministers of the member countries of the European Community met in Rome on February 19, 1980. After their one-day meeting they published a statement on the Olympic Games and the situation in Afghanistan. Here follows an unofficial translation of that statement:

OLYMPIC GAMES

The nine foreign ministers discussed the question of the Olympic Games to be held in Moscow later this year.

They have agreed to reconsider the question in the light of further developments in the situation.

AFGHANISTAN

- 1) The Nine focussed their discussion mainly on the situation created by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.
- 2) They noted their agreement on the analysis of the situation and its implications. In this connection they took the view that their statement of January 15 is still completely valid.
- 3) They stressed in particular that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan remains their objective and that they will endeavour to establish the conditions for this.

4) It is also their desire to seek ways and means of restoring a situation in line with the resolution of the General Assembly of the United States of January 14, which appeals to all states to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-aligned character of Afghanistan and to refrain from any interference in the internal affairs of that country.

5) They take the view that, in this spirit, the crisis could be constructively overcome through an arrangement which would exclude a neutral Afghanistan from big power rivalry.

6) Accordingly, they have decided to examine this point more thoroughly and to consult on the subject with all allied and friendly countries and with all countries interested in preserving the equilibrium and stability of the region.
