

Lausanne, 28 March 2008

RE: 15th March Letter addressed to the President Rogge

Dear Mrs. Reynolds,

Thank you for your letter of 15 March 2008. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) shares the world's desire for the Chinese government to bring about a peaceful resolution in Tibet as quickly as possible.

According to the Olympic Values as upheld by the Olympic Movement, the IOC's goal is to make a contribution to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport. These values demand mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play for everyone without discrimination.

The visibility and symbolism of the Olympic Games shines a spotlight on any host country's activities and draws attention to non-sports-related issues. Awarding the Olympic Games to China has, it can be argued, elevated international dialogue on China's involvement in Tibet. This dialogue takes place, as it should, amongst government, politicians, influential individuals and expert organisations. As a sport organisation, the IOC is not in a position to question sovereign powers or laws of any country's government. Please find a statement of the IOC President on our role, published in the context of the recent events, on our website:

http://www.olympic.org/uk/news/media_centre/press_release_uk.asp?id=2520

Consistent with any Olympic bid process, the Beijing 2008 bid process covered obligations that specifically concern the organisation and management of successful Games. Those obligations did not cover commitments on broader national social or political issues. The success or failure of the Organising Committee will be measured by its ability to organise and host operationally successful Games which allow the world's best athletes to compete at the top of their sport. If the benefits in Beijing have an effect beyond sport arenas, then everyone will win.

In regards to the Olympic Torch Relay, which is led by the Organising Committee, we feel that this is an event where the Olympic values are powerfully brought to life. The Olympic Torch is a symbol which inspires people from all over the world to overcome their differences and come together in mutual understanding in anticipation of the Games which it heralds. The IOC's expectation is that the 2008 torch relay will go ahead as planned.

We remain committed to bringing the Olympic Movement to China for the

first time in its history because we believe that the Olympic Games can show by example the benefits of bringing together people from all races and religions to practice sport in a spirit of friendship and fair play.

We will continue doing all we can to honestly and effectively manage the expectations of the many different stakeholders that we serve.

Sincerely,

Christophe DE KEPPER
Chief of Staff