Politics have always influenced the IOC

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Canada and Great Britain have announced that they will withdraw from the Olympics if the US decided to boycott the Moscow Olympics and that other countries, notably Saudi Arabia, have already announced their withdrawal from the games.

Ward indicated that politics heavily influence the IOC, citing the exclusion of Taiwan from the 1976 summer Montreal Games.

The situation particularly concerns the MIT students, alumni, and staff involved in the 1980 Olympics. John Everett, a hopeful for the US Olympic crew, stated, "We ought to go and not care about the politics." He feels, however, that the athletes will back up the president, although he did not think the boycott would affect the Soviet offensive in Afghanistan.

Harriet Pearse, a member of the sports medicine staffs at MIT and the Lake Placid Olympics, also feels the US Olympic team would support the president. Although she doubted the boycott would change the situation in Afghanistan, she called it a "good move" on President Carter's part, and called for a more definite stand on the issue.

"As for the winter games, Pearce feels the Americans will be "very much the host" to the Russians and much more conscious of the world-wide situation, trying to prevent tension. A source connected with the Lake Placid Games, however, feels the Soviets will act a matter of course back out, taking the Communion bloc countries with them.

As of press time, officials from the State Department Olympic Task Force were unavailable for comment.

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