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Dear Mr. President, Dear Mr. Rogge,

In July, I informed you of the latest developments concerning Munich's bid for the Winter Olympic Games in 2018 and the activities of the "NOlympia" campaign. In the relatively short period of time since then, public opposition to the holding of the Winter Olympic Games has further intensified. I wish to keep you informed of the situation and the latest problems in this letter.

In my last letter, I reported on the successful opposition of the people and land owners in Oberammergau, which ultimately resulted in the abandonment of this location as a venue by the bid organization.

Despite the Bavarian state government's flamboyant declaration of "successful negotiations", a consensus has by no means been reached in the main venue (snow park) of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The majority of land owners boycotted negotiations with the local authority in mid-July. The press nationwide reported a "peasants' revolt in Garmisch". Farmers gave quotes like this one to national current affairs magazines: "They are a gang of conmen. The Olympic spirit is dead."

This situation remains unchanged. As you can see in the attached article from the Süddeutsche Zeitung from 15/12/2010, 59 land owners declared through their lawyer that they have no intention of making their land available. The land owners are calling on the state government to officially withdraw the bid.

The US Today also emphasized this situation in its report on the presentation of the Munich bid to the Congress of the National Olympic Committee in Acapulco in October. As the Süddeutsche Zeitung also reported, a "compromise" was negotiated by two parties which "have no means of negotiation." Neither the Bavarian state government nor the chairman of the Traditional Costume Group (Trachtenverein) in Garmisch-Partenkirchen can conclude the land agreements, only the land owners

themselves can do this.

Against this background, the “smaller-scale solution” in Garmisch-Partenkirchen put forward in Acapulco looks set to fail locally. As the Head of the Bavarian State Chancellery, Siegfried Schneider, accurately told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*: “Without Garmisch there will be no Olympics.”

The municipal assemblies in Munich, Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Berchtesgadener Land have approved the key data paper for the bid book, even if not unanimously. However, even the CSU's local youth organization called on the municipal councils in Garmisch-Partenkirchen to vote against the 2018 winter games. Three out of seven CSU communal councilors followed suit. Three of four SPD municipal council members also refused to give their approval to the key data paper.

The people's representatives in Murnau and Ohlstadt, two large municipalities near to Schwaiganger, the replacement venue for the biathlon and cross-country skiing competitions, have not yet been consulted. This may, of course, produce further potential for conflict owing to dissatisfaction with the holding of the Winter Olympics locally and the local population again having the impression that their concerns are not being taken seriously and decisions are being taken over their heads.

In Murnau, where 1800 media representatives are to be accommodated in container constructions, the local SPD has been collecting signatures against the bid with great success. What this can result in has already been clearly demonstrated in Oberammergau.

After the withdrawal of Oberammergau, the “Nordic center” with cross-country skiing and biathlon facilities are to be constructed on the site of Gestüt Schwaiganger. All buildings and cross-country skiing trails are to be constructed here temporarily. Schwaiganger is in a sunnier location and at lower altitude than Garmisch-Partenkirchen and therefore requires a permanently installed and expensive artificial snow machine. Criticism has been made locally of plans to lay 7.5 km of piping to help guarantee snow and to remove water from the mountain river, the Loisach. Around €25 million would be spent on the temporary buildings in Schwaiganger alone which would make no contribution to a “sustainable Olympic heritage.”

Other planning objectives concerning “Munich 2018” remain completely unresolved. In a series of lectures at the Technical University of Munich, Michael Mangold, of the planning studio “Albert Speer und Partner”, which has been involved in planning for the bid organization since the start of the bid, said on July 8 at the Technical University of Munich that only 4,500 passengers could travel per hour on the enhanced Munich-Garmisch railway line. The other visitors would have to use cars. That does not exactly sound like credible evidence of a green 2018 Winter Olympics.

The readers' letters sent to and published by regional newspapers in the Garmisch-Partenkirchen area make it clear that the Winter Olympic Games have no support amongst the population. Of the 91 readers' letters published in the region by 27/10/2010, 71 were opposed to the proposals, while just 20 were supportive of the bid. This corresponds to an overwhelming majority of 78% who are not just opposed to the Winter Olympics being held locally, but are also clearly against the games!

Disharmony and rows within the bid organization have also produced negative headlines. On September 6, 2010, the clothing manufacturer, Willy Bogner, stepped down as CEO of the bid organization. This had been preceded by a “confidential”

letter from Bogner to his colleagues in the bid organization in which he threatened to stand down unless significantly more money went into the bid organization's budget. This letter was leaked to the press by someone within the organization and became a national issue. Bogner criticized the funding of the bid organization and argued for a budget increase from €30 to €40 million despite the fact that at the time only funding of just under €20 million had been secured. Bogner also wrote about the liquidity problems at the bid organization.

The organization's general meeting only granted Bogner a budget increase to €33 million on 15/07/2010. Bogner expressed his hope on the day of the decision that a "decent bid" could still be made with this smaller budget and dismissed thoughts of standing down. Commenting on Bogner's resignation, the chairman of the main shareholder, DOSB, said: "Little damage has been done. The lights are still green." These are revealing insights into the inner workings of the bid organization.

The press described "Olympic chaos", "Embarrassment" and how the German bid had been seen off by countless problems.

The ambassadors recruited by the bid organization to promote the bid, all current or former Olympians, complained through the press that they were not being involved enough: "We just stand around at events. Nobody knows what they are supposed to be doing. You are not given any information beforehand. There is nothing to be seen or heard of the bid organization on-site."

The chair of the Environment Committee of the Bundestag, the lower house of the German Parliament, Mrs. Eva Bulling-Schröter (Die Linke) described the bid to the press on a visit to Garmisch-Partenkirchen on 12/07/2010 as "neither environmentally nor socially and economically feasible" and, commenting on the financial planning, said: "It is so disjointed that nobody understands it. It's sloppy and amateurish." That certainly does not sound like genuine Olympic enthusiasm from Germany's highest political body, in particular as Munich's Olympic bid has now been rejected by all Green Party committees. In the potential host municipalities and areas of Munich, Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Berchtesgadener Land, the assemblies have clearly turned against the hosting of the 2018 Winter Olympic Games. Since the resolution of the state delegates' conference, the state party's highest body, the "Bavarian state party" has opposed the hosting of the Winter Olympics just like the Greens state parliamentary group. Since the federal delegates' conference, the Greens' federal party assembly, on 20/11/2010, my party's federal association has now also opposed the holding of the 2018 Winter Olympics by a clear majority. A few hours after the decision of our federal party assembly, our federal chair, Claudia Roth, stepped down from the bid organization's board of trustees. Together with the party "Die Linke", recent surveys indicate that up to 33% of votes in a Bundestag election would currently go to parties opposed to Munich's Olympic bid.

This is also in line with the Germany-wide trend as only 60% of people said yes to the question "Should the Winter Olympics be held in Munich?" in a national survey by the leading research institute Infratest dimap, commissioned by ARD in December 2010. However, 35% are opposed to the winter games in Bavaria. This clearly shows that the opposition to the hosting of the games is not just a local phenomenon, but also has national dimensions. Even within the German Alpine Association (DAV), which is one of the last associations in the so-called "environment expert committee", there are more opponents than supporters of the winter games locally. According to a survey of members published on the website of the Garmisch-Partenkirchen group, 47.6% were opposed to the bid while only 45.4% could imagine the Winter Olympics

being held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Finally, Mr. President, I would also like to highlight the activities of our “NOlympia” federation:

The largest federation meeting of “NOlympia” to date took place on 27/07/2010. In addition to the Green state parliamentary group and the Bavarian state association of the Green Party, various parties and associations, such as “Bund Naturschutz”, “Die Linke”, the ÖDP, the “Partei für Franken”, the “Frauenliste Oberammergau”, the “Gesellschaft für Ökologische Forschung” and the “Grüne Jugend”, sent representatives to the federation meeting. With many other supporters behind us, we have since been able to step up our commitment and to take to the streets in Munich and Garmisch-Partenkirchen with information stands and campaigns.

The signature lists against the Munich bid for the 2018 Winter Olympics, which have been available since the start of July, have received a great response from the public. Several national daily newspapers have reported on the collection of signatures. In my office alone, more than 6,000 signatures have been received to date and the number is increasing daily. Around 75% of signatures come from citizens directly affected in the market municipality and region of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Munich and Berchtesgadener Land.

Further supporters joined us at the start of August: the youth organization of the German Environmental Society (Bund für Umwelt Deutschland - BUND) with around 43,000 members also voiced its opposition to the Munich bid and its support of the “NOlympia” initiative.

Unfortunately, there were also negative headlines at the start of August. The car of the spokesperson for the land owners in Garmisch-Partenkirchen was seriously damaged. Her windscreen was smashed by unknown persons. Several threats had previously been made in a roundabout way. Hitler moustaches and "Fuck the Olympics" were scrawled on two cardboard mascots of the Ski World Championships 2011 at the southern end of the Farchant tunnel. On 23/08/2010, the chairman of the local BUND environmental protection group in Garmisch and his deputy received anonymous death threats which specifically related to their criticism of the Olympic bid.

The Olympic spirit of peace is unfortunately not being felt at present. These shameful acts of excess have been condemned by all political parties.

The “Bund Naturschutz” (Environmental Protection Society) in Munich and the “Gesellschaft für ökologische Forschung” (Society for Environmental Research) organized a tree-mapping event of the site of the planned Olympic village at Munich’s Olympiapark in mid-August 2010. It was established that 80% of the 471 trees counted were on land subject to the Munich Tree Protection Regulation. In total, it is estimated that 1500 to 2000 trees are under threat of being felled as a result of the construction of the Media Village and Olympic Village. However, a subsequent official tree assessment by the city administration indicated that 2,630 trees are actually affected. This was reason enough for NOlympia to hold a high-profile press conference on 20/08/2010 on the current German military site to highlight the negative impact of the bid on the state capital.

The website of the “Gesellschaft für ökologische Forschung” www.nolympia.de also received lots of hits and had been visited by 102,781 people by 15/12/10.

I will keep you informed of our criticisms of the Munich bid on a regular basis as a representative of "NOlympia". In my next letter, I will explicitly look at the land in Garmisch-Partenkirchen which is required for the construction of the competition facilities, but is not available.

Yours sincerely

Ludwig Hartmann