



## Special Olympics

27 June 2003

Mr. Abraham Foxman  
National Director  
Anti-Defamation League  
823 United Nations Plaza  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Foxman:

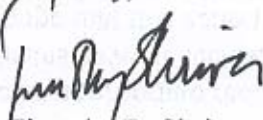
I appreciate your thoughtful letter of June 24, 2003, regarding the instances of a small number of teams in the Special Olympics World Games refusing to compete for no legitimate reason. Fortunately, these instances have been few, and I hope that we have taken the right steps to correct this situation, and that we can finish these spectacular Games in the spirit of inclusiveness and friendly competition, as the Special Olympics Movement requires, and as the Special Olympics athletes clearly deserve.

As you might reasonably expect, I have made an appropriate remonstrance concerning this behavior to the national officials whose teams have, it seems, been instructed not to participate in selected competitions. I would hope that this action will have the desired effect: namely, that no nation, whatever its political stance, would seek to use this Movement for its narrow political purposes.

As you know, Special Olympics is urgently seeking fair treatment and basic human respect for the 170 million individuals on the earth who have mental disabilities; and any instance of political intrusion into this effort only tends to diminish the influence of our Movement. Accordingly, we must continually reaffirm to all the purity of our stated purpose and the inherent worthiness of our uniquely special cause, embracing as it does the embattled status of those among us whom we most easily overlook, those whom we most readily forget.

Mr. Foxman, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter more fully, and to perhaps hear further your views about ways in which Special Olympics can be a more effective instrument of human acceptance.

Sincerely,



Timothy P. Shriver