

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. According to the news story, the majority of international officials and leaders seem to agree with China's argument that the Olympics are about rising above politics through the celebration of sports. What do you think? Can you or should you separate politics from sports at events like the Olympics? Why or why not?

2. The actor Don Cheadle, a co-founder of Not On Our Watch, a Darfur advocacy group, said he hoped that Spielberg's actions would force China to rethink its position. "One guy like Steven in a position like that is like 100 other guys," he said. "Those are the kinds of moves, that if they catch fire, and other people think of boycotting, or refraining, the cumulative effect could be something that potentially could change the calculation of that government." What do you think? Do you agree or disagree with Cheadle's assessment of the situation. Why or why not?

3. Look back to past Olympic Games. When have world political events impacted the games in a significant way? Look at times of war and conflict. [suggestions: 1936 Berlin Games, 1976 Montreal Games, 1980 Moscow Games, 1984 Los Angeles Games] How are these events similar or different to what's going on today?