



Australia will join the US in a diplomatic **boycott** of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics to protest China's reported human rights abuses, and people say that this will further worsen the relationship between the two countries.

Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that Australia had consistently asked China about its human rights abuses and many other issues; however, the Chinese government had not accepted opportunities to meet about them. Therefore, he said, it shouldn't be a surprise that Australian officials wouldn't go to China for the Olympics.

Morrison's choice makes Australia the first major country to follow the US in deciding against sending officials to the **spectacle** starting on February 4, while both countries will still allow their athletes to go. The US's **diplomatic** boycott left many US partners trying to balance the relationship with the US's security and China's trade.

Difficult words: **boycott** (to withdraw from commercial or social work with a country or organization as a punishment or protest), **spectacle** (an event that attracts attention or interest), **diplomatic** (the management of relationships between countries).

Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *boycott, spectacle and diplomatic*
2. What does a diplomatic boycott in the Olympics mean?
3. Why did the US and Australia decide to boycott in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics?
4. Why did Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that it shouldn't be a surprise that Australian officials wouldn't go to China for the Olympics?
5. What are other countries trying to do with the US's diplomatic boycott?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Did your country participate the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics?
2. Has your country ever joined a diplomatic boycott in the Olympics?
3. Have you heard of the issues of human rights abuses China has been accused of?
4. What would be the impact of the US and Australia's diplomatic boycott to their athletes? to the Olympic Committee? and to the world?