



Olympic Solidarity action of the IOC

by Giulio Onesti, member of the IOC for Italy and coordinator of the Olympic Solidarity

The vast development of the Olympic Movement which today comprises 131 National Olympic Committees has posed problems of assistance for sport in those countries which have recently gained their independence.

By the creation of Olympic Solidarity, the IOC has aimed at giving a new form and new means to assistance programmes, without cancelling those already existing promoted by the International Federations and many countries. By organising Olympic Solidarity, the IOC feels sure that it is carrying out initiatives liable to reinforce the bonds uniting it to the NOCs: and has accordingly called for the collaboration of the National Olympic Committees themselves and of the International Federations.

The IOC's action will develop in three sectors:

1. preparation of experts, organisation of preparation and perfecting courses for experts, offers of scholarships;
2. elaboration and dissemination of sports documentation, including an activity in the field of audiovisual media;
3. programming and setting up of sports infrastructures, which should take three forms:

- a) elaboration of technical programmes of installations above all of economic and elementary type;
- b) creation of a consultative office;
- c) organisation of perfecting courses for architects and engineers.

When setting up Olympic Solidarity, the IOC sent out a fairly detailed questionnaire to the NOCs and, for their information, to the International Federations, for the purpose of ascertaining the needs of the NOCs on the whole subject outlined in the foregoing.

The relative answers will be indispensable for the setting in motion of Olympic Solidarity.

In a first stage the actions of Olympic Solidarity will be concentrated on the organisation of the NOCs and on the reinforcement of their autonomy. Thereafter aid of a technical nature will also be envisaged.

However it should be immediately pointed out that assistance will be granted by the IOC exclusively in the form of services, all subsidies of money and equipment being excluded.

In any case the applicant for assistance will always be the Olympic Committee of the country concerned.

Olympic Solidarity is organised and directed by the IOC, under the general direction of its President, of Mr. van Karnebeek and the other two Vice-Presidents and the members of the IOC Executive Board. The Coordinator, namely the undersigned, is at the disposal of the NOCs for the operative side.

In view of the need for a continental representation, the IOC has set up a Commission of advisory type consisting of members of the IOC and representatives of the NOCs. This takes part in the planning of assistance actions, in the defining of priorities and in the control of realisations.

In addition, within the framework of the general secretariat of the IOC, a bureau has been set up to deal with the practical work connected with the solidarity programmes.

With the help of the NOCs and of the International Federations, the IOC foresees constituting a voluntary group of teachers and experts to be used within the framework of the programmes.

Olympic Solidarity is based on a fundamental collaboration of the NOCs and the International Federations. The NOCs having the necessary means will be able to contribute materially to the Olympic Solidarity operations.

Olympic Solidarity implies expenses which cover the courses, consultations, missions of experts, scholarships, travel of teachers, technical and other experts, and cost of elaboration and printing of documentation.

These expenses will be covered on the one hand by the funds originating from the third of television rights intended for the NOCs and administered by the IOC. In addition the IOC is studying the creation of an Olympic Foundation or a special banking account within which private financial donations to Olympic Solidarity would be gathered.

Olympic Solidarity will also give convincing and concrete proof of Olympic fraternity, which is no mere empty formula but a concrete reality.

In assuming the difficult task of Coordinator, I thank the IOC for the confidence thus placed in me. I sincerely hope that the prompt and positive realisation of the programmes entrusted to me will serve to bear out so precious a confidence.

G.O.

