



## Moscow 80

22a Gorky Street, Moscow

by Boris Bazunov

*We are grateful to the magazine "Sport in the USSR" for authorising the reproduction of the following article written by the journalist Boris Bazunov.*

★

Moscow's first Olympic address is 22a Gorky Street, the Organising Committee of the Summer Games of 1980. Here, in an old four-storey building which looks surprisingly young after restoration, you can put your finger on the pulse of the main event of the 1980 sports calendar.

When you come to the Olympic HQ you begin to doubt whether the opening day is still almost five years away. Many of the Committee's 45 staff members are drawing up preliminary timetables of competitions and training sessions, charting transport routes to and from Olympic venues and planning the medals presentation ceremonies. The people in this building are well aware of the inexorable march of time.

The preparatory stage of the 1980 Olympic Games was opened, as it were, on October 22, 1974, when IOC President Lord Killanin announced that Moscow had been selected as the Olympic host. Let us take a brief look at what has been done in the year since then.

The Moscow Olympic Organising Committee, set up in March of this year and headed by Deputy Premier Ignaty Novikov, has broad powers that are commensurate with the scale of the problems it has to solve in coordinating the efforts of the governmental, public and sports organisations that are involved in preparing for and staging the Games. Preparations are now in the initial planning, designing and organisational stage.

Judging by all signs, the 1980 Games will surpass all previous ones in scale. In July 1980 athletes from between 130 and 140



countries will come to Moscow—by comparison, 121 countries were represented at the Munich Olympics of 1972. All told, there will be about 12,000 participants in the Moscow Olympics, counting coaches and medical and technical personnel. Some 7,000 newsmen from abroad are expected, and also more than 800 official guests and guests of honour.

All problems of any importance connected with the preparations are discussed at meetings of the Olympic Organising Committee, says V. Koval, its Deputy Chairman. "We examine proposals by ministries, governmental departments and public organisations. For example, the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting under the USSR Council of Ministers plans to beam programmes that will be seen by nearly 2,000 million people all over the world. Many television companies abroad are showing an interest in the Moscow Games, and farsighted executives have already visited the Soviet capital. At its latest meeting the Organising Committee discussed such problems as accommodation for Olympic contestants and tourists, the minting of commemorative coins, the opening of an international youth camp and the staging of preliminary matches of the football tournament in Leningrad, Kiev and Minsk as well as in Moscow."

The daily post brings many letters from abroad, but most of them are from Soviet citizens in all parts of the country. Sports fans write in to say that they would like to contribute to the preparations and make suggestions about improving Moscow's appearance, about welcoming visitors, holding the competitions and so on.

These letters are a big moral support for the organisers of the Games. Also, they are tangible proof of the popularity of the Moscow Olympic Games.

*B.B.*

### ● News from Moscow

Mr. Alexander Gresko, Secretary General of the Moscow Organising Committee, has sent us a news summary that we publish here and for which we thank him.

"The delegation from the Organising Committee for the Games of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad, headed by Mr. Ignaty Novikov, President of the Organising Committee, presented its report of activities to the 77<sup>th</sup> IOC Session. The Organising Committee received the IOC's approval on:

- the draft programme of the Games, which includes competitions in all the sports on the official programme of the 1976 Olympic Games,
- the dates of the Games—from Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> July (opening ceremony) until Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1980 (closing ceremony),
- the organisation of a youth camp,
- the staging of the preliminary football matches in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Minsk."

\*

● A second delegation from the Organising Committee, led by Vice-President, Mr. Georgy Rogulsky, studied in Innsbruck the solutions and techniques used by the organisers of the XII<sup>th</sup> Winter Games.

\*

● To decide on its emblem, the Organising Committee will choose from the 26,000 designs received in Moscow by the end of the competition launched last year.