

IOC Sessions in 1976

Every Olympic year, the IOC holds two sessions. Before turning to the agenda for Montreal which appears on page 225, here is an account of the discussions at Innsbruck.

Officially opened by Dr. Fred Sinowatz on behalf of the President of the Republic of Austria on 1st February, the 77th Session of the International Olympic Committee gathered together fifty-five members for two days at the Innsbruck Congress Centre. This was the opportunity for Mr. Herzog, taking up his functions as new Chief of Protocol, to introduce to his colleagues Mr. Ashwini Kumar, member for India, who was attending a meeting of the IOC for the first time. Shortly afterwards he had the pleasure of taking the first three recipients of the Olympic Order, Mrs. Ellen Müller-Preis, Mrs. Lia Manoliu and Mr. Gyula Hegyi to the President (see "Olympic Review" No. 101-102).

After approval of the minutes, the President stated that the Commission for Olympic Solidarity had been adapted. The group of NOC advisers elected in Rome and six members appointed by the President for their ability formed the new Commission. NOC delegations at meetings with the IOC Executive Board were to be made up of two board members of each NOC. Finally it was decided to send a circular letter to all NOCs asking them to submit candidatures for holding the next Olympic Congress in 1981. The chief task of the Tripartite Commission over the next three years would be to draw up the agenda of this Congress. At the same time NOCs able to hold the 1978 and 1979 Sessions were asked to send the IOC their candidatures so that a decision could be taken at Montreal. At present the programme of future meetings was as follows:

— meeting of the Executive Board and 78th Session - Montreal, 10th to 17th July 1976;

- meeting of the Executive Board with the IFs - Barcelona, 12th to 18th October 1976;
- meeting of the Executive Board with the NOCs - Abidjan 4th to 9th April 1977;
- 79th Session of the IOC - Prague, 14th to 17th June 1977.

Organisation of the Olympic Games

In general the major principles of the reports submitted to the IOC by the Organising Committees of the 1976 and 1980 Games were accepted. However a modification to rule 55 should be noted, forbidding any kind of publicity in the air above the stadium and Olympic arenas, and limiting the dimension of trademarks on timing equipment and scoreboards to 1/10th of the height of the equipment itself: in addition these trademarks should never exceed 10 cm. in height.

Furthermore the President stressed that non-working events should be avoided as far as possible, as should all unnecessary costs.

The 1984 Games would be awarded at the 1978 Session. The questionnaire to which candidate cities would have to reply would be finally approved at the Prague Session in 1977.

International Olympic Academy

The 15th session of the IOA gathered together 128 participants from 38 NOCs, 19 lecturers and 14 guests including the President, Lord Killanin. Once again a great disparity was noticed in the standard of the participants, some of whom were not always well prepared by their NOCs and more or less considered their stay in Olympia as a holiday. A circular reminding NOCs of their duty in selecting and preparing their representatives would be sent before the next Session. In addition the Hellenic Olympic Committee had

decided to bring the brochure on Olympia and the IOA up to date and to send it to all NOCs every year, a few months before the session. The IOC Commission for the IOA would assist it in this task. Finally the Session studied the possibility of organising two separate sessions—one of two weeks' duration with an age limit of 25, and the other lasting about ten days in the form of a symposium for graduates, sports leaders, NOC members, etc. This proposal was still under study. The 16th Session of the IOA was planned for 29th June to 15th July 1976. The special subject would be "the new generation and Olympism" and, as in each Olympic year, the students would be able to attend the ceremony of the Olympic flame. The daily cost would remain the same as in 1975, but the Academy was not able to grant any scholarships.

Emblems

The protection of the Olympic rings throughout the world had made considerable progress, but in many countries there was still a lot to be done. The IOC agreed to the use of the Olympic rings on stamp issues as this would be good promotion for Olympism. Finally, the IOC was given the right to use its emblems as it saw fit.

Finance

The discussion of the Finance Commission's report constituted an important part of the work of the Session. The estimated budget for the eight-year period from 1976 to 1984 would be submitted to the Montreal Session for approval.

As for the division of television rights due to the International Federations, it was approved for the winter sports federations but would be discussed at Barcelona for the summer sports.

Medical

After the various cases of positive tests at Innsbruck it is particularly interesting to note that the Session decided to send a circular letter to all NOCs to encourage them to draw the attention of their athletes, private doctors and team doctors to the list of products banned by the IOC. Let us stress once again that it is the NOCs' responsibility to make sure

the IOC rules on the subject are known and respected.

Regional games

The Session pointed out that in the past an unfortunate concentration of regional games had been noticed and that in future such a situation should be avoided. It nevertheless took note of the following dates which would appear in the next edition of the "Olympic Directory":

- 1978 Central American Games - Medellín (Columbia); African Games - Algiers;
- 1979 Mediterranean Games - Split (Yugoslavia); Pan-American Games - San Juan (Puerto Rico).

Requests for recognition

a) International Federations: the request for recognition from the International Stoke Mandeville Games Federation, organised for the physically handicapped, was accepted on condition that the federation stopped using the terms "Olympics", "Olympiads", etc. By a show of hands it was decided to recognise the International Lawn Tennis Federation as the federation governing world tennis. Consequently its name and address would in future appear in the "Olympic Directory". This in no way meant that tennis wanted to be re-included in the Olympic programme. Three federations were at present disputing the control of baseball. The IOC therefore decided to continue to recognise the FIBA as the body controlling world baseball, but the question would be re-examined at Montreal in the light of the developments which were likely to occur.

b) National Olympic Committees: requests for recognition from the NOCs of Grenada, Antigua and the Cayman Islands would be re-examined at Montreal for final approval. However athletes from these countries would be able to take part in the Montreal Games if their Committees' statutes were sent to the Secretariat and considered in order.

Rule changes

The 77th IOC Session made a certain number of modifications to the Rule Book, which have been published in No. 101-102 of the "Olympic Review", pages 144 and 145. The 1976 edition is now available.