



The year of 1976 was particularly strenuous for the Organising Committee "Olympiad 80". It was the year of preparing plans, approving architectural projects and construction schedules. The Winter Games in Innsbruck and the Olympic Games in Montreal were also held in 1976, and

We consider the Olympic Games not only a major sports event, but also a brilliant opportunity for furthering relations among representatives of practically all countries of the world, which is an important contribution to the strengthening of peace, promotion of mutual understanding and friendship among nations.



Our thanks go to Mr. Smirnov for writing this article on preparations for the Olympic Games in Moscow. In view of his many responsibilities, Mr. Smirnov assures a vital link between the IOC (member of the Executive Board and the Commission for the Olympic Programme), Organising Committee (1st Executive Vice-President) and USSR NOC (Vice-President) in the staging of the 1980 Olympic Games.

**by Vitaly Smirnov,
member of the IOC Executive Board**

The Soviet Government renders great assistance in the preparation of the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. In his message to the members of the International Olympic Committee, the Organising Committee and participants of the Games of the XXI Olympiad, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev, wrote: *"The Soviet Union has supported and is supporting the modern Olympic movement. The Soviet people are now carrying on preparations for the Moscow Olympic Games and are doing their best to organise the Games on a high level and give new impact to the noble ideas of friendship and peace."*

representatives of the various organisations which are preparing the 1980 Olympic Games together with the Organising Committee were given a chance to get acquainted with the Games, watch them and study the positive and negative aspects of holding the Olympics with a view to the Olympic Games in Moscow.

Venues

For the organisation of the competitions it is planned to reconstruct and build more than

20 sports facilities in Moscow, Tallinn, Leningrad, Kiev and Minsk. Construction of new Olympic sites has been included in the 10th five-year plan for development of the national economy.

The main sports centre of the Olympic Games will be the Central Stadium in Luzhniki, where the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games will be held, as well as competitions in athletics, gymnastics, judo, water polo, volleyball, equestrian sports (Grand Prix - jumping), and the football finals. Many sports installations of the stadium will be reconstructed and modernised, the minor arena will be covered with a roof, and a multi-purpose sports hall with seats for 3,000 spectators will be built close to the tennis grounds.

The sports centre in Krylatskoye, comprising the existing rowing course, is expanding. There are plans to build a number of auxiliary facilities and temporary stands for up to 21,000 spectators. An indoor velodrome and 13.5 km long road for cycling will also be built in Krylatskoye. A special field for archery with 3,000 seats is already under construction there.

Another sports centre is located on Mir Avenue, with the largest indoor stadium in Europe accommodating 45,000 spectators. Its design envisages the transformation of the arena for the Olympic Games for the simultaneous staging of basketball and boxing competitions. Close to the stadium an indoor swimming pool for swimming and diving events is under construction.

The fourth sports centre will be situated on Leningradsky Avenue within the existing sports venues: stadia of the "Young Pioneers", "Dynamo", Sports Club of the Army, where hockey competitions will be held, and in the "Dynamo" complex we shall organise football matches. Women's basketball competitions will take place in the sports palace of the Sports Club of the Army, and judo, wrestling and fencing events in the new sports hall.

Construction Schedule

The Organising Committee has drawn up a construction schedule for the Olympic sites. According to this schedule the main centre of the sports competitions—the Central

Stadium in Luzhniki—will be ready by the end of 1979. Construction work at the sports palace on Mir Avenue with a seating capacity for 45,000 spectators will be finished in 1979, as will the Olympic swimming pool. In December 1978 all work will be completed on the shooting range at Mytischki. The rowing course with stands for 21,000 spectators is to be ready by 1st January 1980. All construction work will be completed: Sports Club of the Army (for football and athletics)—by 1st January 1979; 13.5 km road for cycling—by October 1978; field for archery—by December 1978; press centre with all the necessary installations—by December 1979; Olympic village—by 1st January 1979. As for the preparation and construction of all the necessary sports facilities for the yachting events in Tallinn, these will also be finished in 1979.

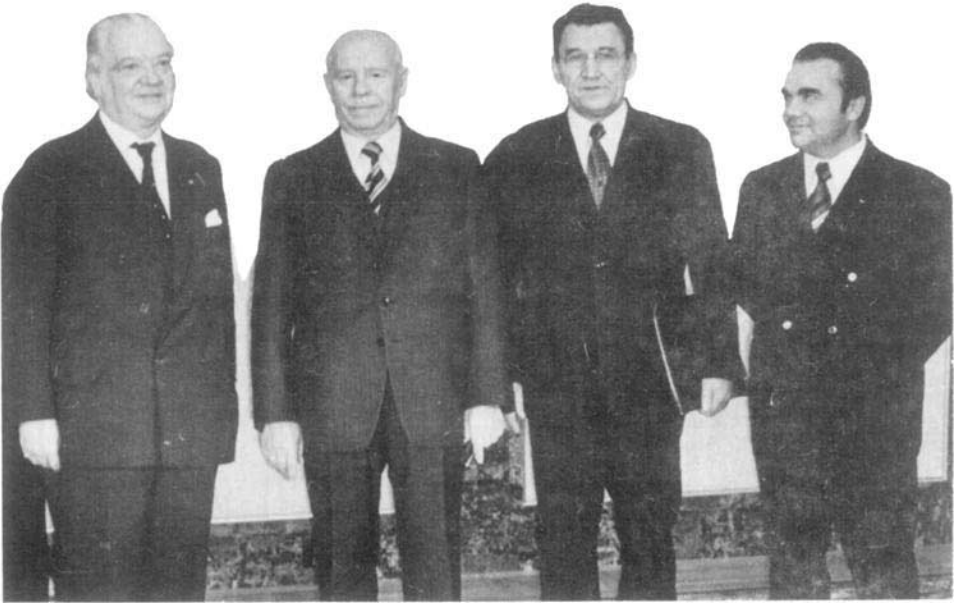
Visitors

The Organising Committee "Olympiad 80" is paying special attention to the development of contacts with the various tourist organisations.

From year to year the number of foreigners who visit the Soviet Union is increasing; in the last five years alone, about 15 million visitors came to the Soviet Union from all continents.

Soviet tourist companies attach much importance to the construction of hotels in Moscow where the 1980 Games will be held, in Tallinn for the yachting competitions, Leningrad, Kiev and Minsk for the preliminary football matches. Hotels are being built by Soviet construction firms, and in some cases foreign organisations and companies are co-operating on the construction. For example, last year contracts were signed with "Sefri" (France) and "Skonska" (Sweden) for the construction of hotels in Moscow and Leningrad. Measures are being taken for the exchange of know-how, information and experts in tourism between foreign companies and Soviet firms.

Our tourist organisations have also started to train and select personnel for serving the guests of Olympiad-80, and the best interpreters and guides of "Intourist" (State Administration of Foreign Tourism) will be helping them. At the moment, "Intourist" has about 3,000 guides and interpreters, who



The President of the IOC received by Nikolai V. Podgorny, President of the USSR Supreme Soviet. From left to right: Lord Killanin, Mr. Nikolai V. Podgorny, Mr. Ignati T. Novikov, President of the Organising Committee and Vice-President of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Mr. Serguei Pavlov, President of the USSR NOC and Vice-President of the Organising Committee.

speak 25 languages in all. By 1980 the number of these qualified specialists, who have extensive knowledge not only of the languages, but also of the history and modern life of the USSR, will be considerably increased.

When determining the number of tourists who will attend the Olympic Games, we calculate that if all the sports sites are ready on time for the Games they will house at any one time more than 400,000 spectators. Half of the total number of seats will be allocated for tourists, and the other half for participants, officials of the Games and Muscovites. According to our estimates about 600,000 tourists from foreign countries and from the USSR will be able to visit Moscow during the Olympic Games.

Depending upon their wishes, tourists will be able to stay in the USSR for the whole period of the Games or for several days. Soviet tourist organisations have worked out about 20 different tours during the Olympics, which include trips to other towns. Thus we hope that in accordance with Olympic tradition, a sufficient number of visitors will be able to see the Games.

The Organising Committee looked forward to the visit of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Lord Killanin, and the Technical Director of the IOC, Mr. Henry R. Banks, who came to Moscow in November 1976 to see the progress of preparations for the 1980 Olympic Games.

At the press conference held during his visit, Lord Killanin expressed his satisfaction at the results of talks with the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Nikolai Podgorny, the President of the Organising Committee, Ignati Novikov, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Council of Working People's Deputies, Vladimir Promyslov, and the President of the USSR Olympic Committee, Serguei Pavlov. In the presence of more than 100 representatives of foreign and Soviet press, the President of the IOC also praised the exchange of opinions which took place during these talks, and the progress in preparations and construction work for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.



V. S.