

NBC obtains the television rights for the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad

On 1st February 1977 in Moscow, at a press conference convened by the Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad - Moscow 1980 and which was attended by the representatives of the National Broadcasting Corporation, one of the three major television networks in the United States of America, and the International Olympic Committee, the President of the Organising Committee, Mr. Ignati T. Novikov, announced officially that the right to broadcast the 1980 Olympic Games to the United States had been granted to NBC for the sum of 35 million dollars.

Below we publish Mr. Novikov's speech:

In our opinion, a very important event has taken place in the history of the development of Soviet-American business and cultural relations.

The Organising Committee "Olympiad 80", Soviet television and the well-known American network, NBC, entered into an agreement, the implementation of which will contribute to the promotion of the noble Olympic ideals and better understanding between the Soviet and American peoples.

The agreement consists of two autonomous contracts. One of them deals with the supply of the equipment necessary for Soviet television and radio.

A new Olympic television and radio complex will be built in Moscow. It will be equipped with the most up to date facilities. American television and radio will be provided with special studios and all the necessary facilities. Special television programmes will be transmitted to the United States of America through satellites.

The other contract grants all the rights to NBC to broadcast the competitions of the 1980 Olympic Games to the United States' audience.

I would like to stress the fact that this co-operation answers in full the peaceful policy of our state and the aims of the Olympic movement—to promote international respect and goodwill thus helping to construct a better and more peaceful world."

(We shall be publishing the full text of the statement made by Mr. Vladimir Koval, Vice-President, on behalf of the Organising Committee in our next issue.)

Within the IOC Commissions

New members:

— *Television Commission*

Mr. Lothar Bock will represent the American television network NBC, contracting company for the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad in Moscow.

— *Press Commission*

Messrs. Albert Riethausen, John Rodda and Eric Walter become the respective photographers', written press and broadcasting representatives.