

Olympic Solidarity

The experts' opinions

In a previous issue we presented comments by various experts after their missions to Africa and South America. Now we publish the opinions given after the Olympic Solidarity courses in Mexico last November.



Guido Costa (ITA) - national cycling coach

"...I was enormously impressed and even astonished by the colossal organisation... of the course, the first of its kind in the history of world sport: overwhelming response from 640 participants from 25 countries and great coverage by the local press, television and radio..."

"...During the theoretical and practical lessons I was assisted by Giuseppe Grassi, former amateur world stayers champion, and by Mr. Teyes... I was pleased to see the enormous interest shown by the 45 participants... and their thirst for knowledge of modern training techniques, methodology... tactics... etc."

Kazimierz Gorski (POL) - former chief trainer of the Polish national football team

"...It was a highly intensive course and the programme included all aspects of training activity based on experience acquired in Poland, Brazil and Mexico.

"...I have the feeling that in about 18 months' time it would prove useful to organise a second course, possibly with the same participants, in order to further extend and perfect their knowledge... I was also very happy to have had the opportunity of working with such excellent colleagues as José R. Avila from Brazil and Diego Mercado from Mexico."



Jack Gardner (USA) - basketball coach

"I have conducted many international clinics around the world, but this one was superior in every way. The IOC and COM are to be commended for setting up such a fine framework and organisation and making it possible for twelve sports to perform at one time..."

"...From the response I received from the student-coaches, I am sure that the basketball instruction was well received... The fine classrooms, interpreters, film projection equipment with operators and gymnasia for the practical side, were all the very best, making working conditions very pleasant."





Timothy P. White (USA) - sports medicine

"I would like to reiterate my whole-hearted support for the Olympic movement in this relatively new and important programme of Olympic Solidarity..."

... The central theme of my participation in the IOC Solidarity programme was the physiological bases of exercise and sport... It is important to realise that the effectiveness of my presentation would have been tremendously diminished if it were not for the fine organisation and superb facilities available..."

I received a favourable impression of the participants... the vast majority had a good grasp of the topics and were relating and probing with their own personal needs in mind... I was impressed by the almost frightening eagerness evident for the material I presented..."

There is strong evidence of the importance of continuing and expanding the Solidarity courses and it is apparent that the participants at Mexico City have no other forum available where they can be exposed to these topics."

Radames R. Rivera (USA) - boxing coach

"The representatives were attentive and eager to absorb our methods. I feel that many of the students left with a greater insight and understanding of the art of coaching..."

...I greatly appreciate the chance of participating in the IOC Solidarity programme... I spent many pleasant hours in friendly and constructive discussions with coaches from Russia, Germany, Poland, Cuba and Brazil... the language barrier was practically non-existent and we were able to exchange ideas through our common interest in amateur sport.

...I had the good fortune to work hand in hand with Mr. Salberio Fuentes from Cuba and Mr. Stravos Bachvarov from Mexico on a programme which involved both theoretical and practical sessions."



Comments taken from a letter written by Philip O. Krumm, President of the United States Olympic Committee:

"...I only trust that we can continue with the fine sort of program that was carried on in Mexico.

...The problem which will continue to exist in obtaining expert instructors from the United States is that particularly during the season when schools are in session it is extremely difficult to obtain top instructors. This means that as far as the United States is concerned most of the courses should be during July and August which is the vacation period.

...We are presently in the process of developing national training centers in three areas of the United States... I am hopeful that in at least one of these areas we can develop another Solidarity training center. I believe at one time you had mentioned that you would like to have one of these instructional schools within the United States.

...Again, let me say that I was highly impressed when I attended the closing ceremonies and the awarding of the certificates."