

Readers' correspondence

I would like to voice my opinion for fairness in sports. Politics have no place in sports—let's have teams selected on merit only.

*Bob M. Hightover
San Pedro, California (USA)*

The press report quoting Mr. Vitaly Smirnov that tourists would be granted only 6 day visas for the 15 day Summer Games is certainly a distinct departure compared to previous Olympic Games.

I have attended the last six Summer Games, and have never had a restriction placed upon me that I could only stay for a certain number of days.

I do realise however their situation is a bit different, but a six day limit is totally inadequate.

For example, of the two most popular Olympic sports at Montreal, athletics lasted 8 days plus a day of rest, swimming events only 8 days, but 10 if you include the last 2 days of water polo and diving.

Certainly a visitor coming from a great distance in most cases would want to arrive in a country a day before the start of activities.

*Arthur Hoffman
Los Angeles, California (USA)*

Editor's note

Our readers will have been able to check for themselves the alleged statements attributed to Mr. Vitaly Smirnov, member of the International Olympic Committee Executive Board and Executive Vice-President of the Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIIInd Olympiad at Moscow in 1980. Indeed, in the previous issue of *Olympic Review* (No. 112, February 1977), we published an article by Mr. Smirnov in which he stated particularly: "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."