

Moscow 1980



Review of the Soviet press

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"...Sport is the ambassador of peace. I am glad that Coubertin's ideals have spread to such an extent throughout Soviet territory". This quotation, reported in the daily paper *"Sovietsky Sport"*, was made by colonel Linière, a French sports official, at the close of his visit to the USSR as head of a delegation from his country.

The awarding of the organisation of the Olympic Games to our capital shows on the one hand the acknowledgement of the important role of Soviet athletes in the development of the Olympic movement and world sport and, on the other, the triumph of the spirit of detente in relations between countries of different social systems.

The Soviet press describes in detail the various aspects of the preparations for the Olympic Games. Radio, television and the written press report regularly to their subscribers on latest developments at the Organising Committee : negotiations with foreign companies, progress of the Olympic constructions, visits from international guests, preparation of athletes, etc.

After his visit to Moscow, the President of the Indonesian NOC and member of the IOC, Lieutenant-General Dadang Suprayogi, stated that all that he had seen in the Soviet Union augured well for the success of the next Olympiad celebration.

The Spartakiad of the peoples of the USSR will be held one year before the Olympic competitions, thus allowing a better assessment of the preparation for the Games' organisation.

Stop Press

On 5th January 1978, Lord Killanin, President of the International Olympic Committee, who had gone to Moscow at the invitation of the Organising Committee for the Games celebrating the XXIInd Olympiad in 1980, was received at the Kremlin by Mr. Alexei Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

We shall make a detailed report on this interview and visit to Moscow in our next issue.

After inspecting the Mytischki shooting range Mr. Georges A. Vichos, President of the Union Internationale de Tir, stated : *"We can already affirm that the shooting range will be of a high standard and will ensure full comfort for the competitors. Not only will it be as good as those at Munich and Tokyo, but it will surpass them in its modern equipment, due of course, to technical progress..."*

In order to develop sports co-operation between Italy and the USSR, meetings were held last April at the Committee for Physical Education and Sport. Following these meetings, Mr. Vincenzo Vittorioso, head of the department preparing the Italian Olympic teams, declared that Moscow would offer participants and guests even better conditions than those in 1976. *"We have no misgivings about the technical organisation of the Games, cultural programmes and general reception services. Moscow already has sufficient sports potential to stage any competition, of whatever size."*

The Latin American countries are closely following the preparation of the Games in Moscow. During his Moscow trip, Mr. Guillermo Lopez Portillo, Director of the Mexican Sports Institute, saw that reality confirms all the positive ideas circulated in this respect on the other side of the Atlantic. Everything impresses : the extent of the construction work, the understanding of problems, the seriousness and know-how of the organisers. Mr. Portillo parti-



The gymnasium, site of the Olympic volleyball competitions, being built near Luzniki central stadium.

cularly mentioned that the construction and renovation of Olympic facilities were in no way prejudicial to the development of mass competitions and, he added, this was a remarkable feature when compared to the preparation of the preceding Games. *"No one has succeeded before"*, he concluded.

Already several months ago, Mr. João Havelange, President of the Federation Internationale de Football Association and IOC member in Brazil, visited Moscow, Kiev, Leningrad and Minsk, the cities which will host the football tournament. *"I made a number of comments at the time"*, he told the correspondent of *"Sovietsky Sport"* at the end of the 79th IOC Session in Prague last June. *"Now I can see that the organisers have duly noted them. I am convinced that not only the football tournament but also the Olympic Games, in their entirety, will prove a complete success."*

Naturally, the Soviet press is paying special attention to the progress of the Olym-

pic constructions. Press offices have been opened on each building site so that journalists from the major news organisations can keep their readers up to date on developments in the best conditions. The press often draws attention to the work of young people on the "Olympiad 80" sports sites. Journalists present on the future Olympic sites can' publish without delay the latest news, pick out the best workers, the best organisation and criticise mistakes, which increases the efficiency of all concerned. This seems to me a very useful initiative.

V.S.

