



Lake Placid 1980

The President of the IOC
in America...

the work of the IOC Press Commission

The President of the IOC, Lord Killanin, conferring with Mr. Ronald M. MacKenzie during his visit to the host city for the XIIIth Winter Games.

In company with Mr. Ronald MacKenzie, President of the Organising Committee of the XIIIth Winter Games, Lord Killanin was able to appraise the Lake Placid Olympic sites in action when he inspected the area during the sprint speed skating and four-man bobsleigh world championships. Lord Killanin also attended the meeting of the IOC Press Commission on 12th and 13th February chaired by its President, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch (ESP), 1st Vice-President of the IOC.

After a first glimpse of the area when landing, the President of the IOC visited each site, including those still in construction stages, and met with those responsible for the work. At the speed skating oval he saw some of the best skaters inaugurating the new ice rink while in bobsleigh, on one of the world's most famous tracks, he watched competitors demonstrating their skills to a large and enthralled crowd of spectators.

At a press conference after the tour Lord Killanin expressed his satisfaction and con-

gratulated Mr. MacKenzie and his committee for the progress in the construction of facilities. Questions had been raised by several journalists as to whether a village the size of Lake Placid would be able to handle as many as 51,000 visitors per day during the Winter Games. The President felt that few major problems would be encountered, the accommodation facilities planned for this area being more than sufficient.

As regards press accreditations Lord Killanin told the journalists attending his conference that a maximum figure of 4500 had been fixed by the Press Commission for Winter Games. The number of mass media representatives to be accredited at Lake Placid will depend on the facilities and hotel rooms available.

The doping control system to be provided by the LPOOC will be discussed at a future meeting of the IOC Medical Commission. Although there was no doubt that the programme was expensive the President

emphasised its necessity and the uniqueness of the pioneer work done by the Medical Commission in the field of drugs, such as anabolics, and femininity tests.

At the end of his stay the President of the IOC confirmed that he was leaving Lake Placid with a good deal of confidence for the next Winter Games which he believed would be a great success.

His first visit to the area, Lord Killanin seemed pleased with the personal contacts he had made with the many people of Lake Placid involved in the building, planning and organisation for 1980, as well as the occasion to see world champions competing together on the new sites as a forerunner to the XIIIth Winter Games.

The work of the Press Commission

The main purpose of the Press Commission meeting in Lake Placid at the time of the championships was for the Commission members to inspect the facilities planned for 1980 and to discuss certain problems particularly concerning communication facilities and their costs.

The meeting was preceded by an extensive tour of all the sites, despite a temperature of well below freezing, and included the athletes' village, press centre (in the High School), Whiteface Mountain, Mt. Van Hoevenberg (bobsleigh, luge, biathlon and cross-country) and of course the new speed skating oval.

Numerous points featured on the agenda, including the written reports from both the Lake Placid and Moscow Organising Committees, the replies to the press questionnaires submitted by the 1984 candidate cities and a proposal for a course for journalists organised by Olympic Solidarity. Concerning Lake Placid the following points were agreed on :

- the possibilities of reducing communication rates for the press are to be studied by the LPOOC with the aid of a Press Commission member. The LPOOC was to inform national and international press agencies and the NOCs of the telephone facilities available at each competition site, requesting them to state their requirements before 1st April ;

- the Inner Committee of the Press Commission will meet in Athens before the IOC Session, to hear a report by Lake Placid on its efforts to reduce the telephone costs. A proposal to pool the subsidies for telephones offered to the five international agencies by the LPOOC and to share the total with other agencies after the Games will also be examined ;
- national quotas for press accreditations will be fixed in Athens ;
- Press Commission members will hold "B" passes only until the opening of the Games, when they will be replaced by "E" passes.

Other decisions included :

- only *accredited* press will be permitted on the competition sites during the Games to conduct interviews or photograph athletes. Their working conditions—either during training or competitions—will be subject to the IFs' requirements ;
- the Moscow Organising Committee was to send a final list of national quotas for press accreditations to members of the Press Commission by 1st April to obtain their comments ;
- suggestions concerning the replies submitted by the 1984 candidate cities to the press questionnaires were to be sent to the IOC by 1st April so that a full report can be given at the Athens Session ;
 - with regard to the suggested course for journalists organised by Olympic Solidarity a project was to be prepared and discussed at the meeting of the Solidarity Commission on 12th April.

The next full meeting of the Press Commission is scheduled to be held in Moscow in late autumn of this year when the members will also visit Tallinn.

