

Olympic Solidarity

Information letter No. 9

● Itinerant missions

Two international cycling experts, Messrs. Guido Schilling and Oscar Plattner (SUI), were invited to perform a teaching tour of Irak (16th-21st/10/1978), the Philippines (24th-30th/10/78) and Hong Kong (1st-8th/11/78) organised by Olympic Solidarity in collaboration with the FIAC (Federation Internationale Amateur de Cyclisme). The three courses attracted an attendance of respectively 32, 19 and 25 participants ; the latter two being open to candidates from other NOCs in the region, there was also the participation of trainers from Brunei, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates and Macao.

From the excellent report submitted by Messrs. Schilling and Plattner at the end of their mission, it appears that the technical benefits to the development of cycling in Asia were immense and both international experts express the hope that similar missions can be organised in the future.

● Scholarship courses

1. USSR

This autumn the National Olympic Committee of the USSR continued its collaboration with Olympic Solidarity, begun earlier this year with the swimming course, by offering to organise a further two scholarship courses in gymnastics and boxing. These were held in Moscow from 18th September to 7th October and 10th to 29th October respectively. The gymnastics course was attended by 21 participants from 17 National Olympic Committees whereas that for boxing was limited to 12 participants from 12 NOCs. From the analytical report submitted by the host NOC on conclusion of the courses, a

picture of utility and technical validity clearly emerges.

2. Italy

With the aid of the Central Sports School of the Italian National Olympic Committee, this autumn Olympic Solidarity was able to organise three international specialisation courses in collaboration with the competent International Federations.

The international archery course (OS/FITA) was held in Rome from 23rd October to 11th November with the participation of 17 scholarship-holders from 12 different National Olympic Committees. The experts in charge of the course, all chosen by the FITA, were Mr. Kare B. Johnson (SWE), Mr. Vic Berger (USA) and Messrs. Gianni Grosoli and Sante Spigarelli (ITA). The unanimous judgement of both participants, experts and the IF was that the extremely high technical quality of the course proved of great benefit to all concerned and far surpassed previous expectations.

During the same period, Rome also played host to an international diving course necessarily limited in the number of those taking part owing to the technical nature of the discipline. In fact, eleven scholarships were awarded to participants from seven different NOCs and the course, promoted in collaboration with the FINA, was directed by the Italian expert Mr. Klaus Dibiasi, three-times Olympic gold medallist in this discipline.

Unfortunately the success of these last two courses was not matched from a numerical point of view by the international Alpine skiing course. Proposed on an experimental basis, the course initially attracted 11 applications compared to the ten places offered. At the very last minute, however, seven candidates withdrew, leaving only four scholarship-holders from three National Olympic Committees. Despite this initial disappointment the final results of the course, held from 15th October to 14th November at Passo dello Stelvio and Passo del Tonale in the Italian Alps, proved extremely interesting from the technical aspect, for which we must also thank the generous collaboration offered by FISU, the Italian Winter Sports Federation.

