

Moscow 1980

Report to the 81st IOC Session

by Ignati Novikov,
President of the Organising Committee



Following the presentation of his report to the IOC members, Mr. Novikov provided journalists with a summary, the main excerpts of which follow.

...We are happy to see the increasing interest in the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad on the part of the sports governing bodies, progressive public, business community, people of goodwill all over the world and particularly here on the Latin American continent. We are pleased that the preparations for the Games are receiving increased coverage by newspapers, radio and television.

First of all, I should like to inform you that a regular report on the progress of preparations for the 1980 Olympics was presented today to the International Olympic Committee.

We are fully satisfied with the response to this report.

The IOC has approved our proposals in a number of organisational, financial and other matters, which will ensure the further successful work of the OCOG-80.

This is the first time that I have had an opportunity to address a news conference in Latin America. Therefore, I should like to touch upon some main aspects of the preparations for the Games in Moscow in more detail.

The forthcoming Olympic Games will be the first in the 86-year history of the modern Olympic movement to be staged in a socialist country.

This honour to host the Games is in recognition of the immense efforts of the Soviet Union for the cause of peace, of its contribution to the international Olympic movement and to the development of physical education and sports.

The Moscow OCOG is taking measures to ensure that the preparation and staging of the 1980 Games in Moscow will have high organisational and technical standards, fully in keeping with the Olympic Charter.

Much of the construction and modernisation work has already been accomplished at the Olympic installations.

There are 99 projects altogether, of which 76 are located in Moscow.

These include large stadia, hotels, tourist complexes, technical facilities, and cultural centres. Many of them are unique in architecture and structural design.

Part of the facilities designed for the Games will be ready as early as the coming summer. They will be used for the finals of the 7th Spartakiad of the peoples of the USSR in which some 2000 foreign athletes will compete at the invitation of the USSR Sports Committee.

This event will be a serious test of our preparedness for the summer Olympic Games of 1980.

A large residential area is being built up in Moscow to house the Olympic Village. About 12,500 athletes from 125 to 130 nations will live there.

Twelve out of the 18 residential buildings have already been completed in the Olympic Village. The construction of a cultural centre, a sports complex, restaurants, cafes, bars, a department store, halls for religious ceremonies, in other words, all the necessary facilities, is well under way.

The competitors will be accommodated, two to a room, in two or three-room apartments, 14 to 18 square metres in area.

We lay great emphasis on providing proper conditions for the mass media. 7400 journalists are to be accredited. The media of all countries having National Olympic Committees recognised by the IOC will be able to send representatives to Moscow for the Games.

They shall have at their disposal the main press centre, equipped with the most advanced communications technology, as well as subcentres at all competition sites.



ОСТОРОЖНО
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A new radio and television complex is under construction now, and will be used for radio and television coverage of the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad through 18 to 20 colour television channels and 100 radio channels.

The earth's artificial satellites will bring the Olympic events to over two billion people on five continents of the globe.

Europe's largest international and intercity telephone exchange, to be put into service for the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad, is nearing completion in Moscow.

Extensive preparations are being made to provide adequate accommodation and services for competitors, officials, guests, journalists, and tourists who will be coming to the Games.

Hotels, student hostels, camping sites, motels, shops, public catering places, transport systems, post offices, public service facilities are being constructed, renovated or repaired at an accelerated rate.

The OCOG-80 pays a great deal of attention to training the personnel to man the Olympic installations and serve at the events related to the Games. For example, 10,500 guides and hostesses who speak a total of 45 languages are being trained at this time.

The sports programme of the Games has been completed one year before the customary deadlines. It includes 203 events in 21 Olympic sports to be held in Moscow and Tallinn for the period from 19th July through 3rd August 1980. There will be 5 events more than in Montreal.

The ticket programme has been prepared, with 5.8 million admission tickets to be sold for the competitions—1.6 times more than was the case for the Games in Montreal. Our prices for the tickets will be a little lower than those in 1976.

An extensive and varied arts programme awaits the competitors and guests of the Games in Moscow with the principal purpose being to acquaint them with the art of the peoples of the USSR.

The OCOG-80 has been successfully implementing its commercial programme to raise funds in order to meet the operating costs of the organisation of the Games.

Goods and souvenirs bearing the emblem of the 1980 Olympic Games are becoming increasingly popular and are manufactured and distributed today all over the world.

Special importance in our commercial programme is placed on the distribution of the Soviet Olympic coins (silver, gold, and platinum). The consensus of the experts is that these coins are of great interest for collectors. Each coin is an impressive and unique work of numismatic art, and, at the same time, is legal tender.

I want to stress that our commercial programme is equally important and useful for the National Olympic Committees of those countries where it is carried out. The point is that a part of the income received from the sale of goods with Olympic emblems and coins is paid to the respective NOCs and can be used for training their national teams for the Olympic Games and for development of sport in their countries.

We declare that the doors of Olympic Moscow will be hospitably opened to all those who recognise and comply with the laws of Olympism, that is to all, except those who have brought racism and apartheid in sport to the level of state policy.

Our firm stand in this matter is well known. It is completely in line with the letter and spirit of the Olympic Rules.

The OCOG-80 maintains and strengthens contacts with the IOC, the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees and many sports governing bodies of the developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, trying to make the Games in Moscow the most popular and the most representative possible.

In particular, delegations of the Moscow OCOG here on the Latin American continent have visited Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Guyana, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and have established contacts with NOCs and sports governing bodies of those countries.

Top officials of some NOCs in Latin America have already visited Moscow.

We are happy with the support for the 1980 Olympics expressed by most of the NOCs recognised by the IOC, by the IFs governing Olympic summer sports as well as by the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa.

I can assure you that the Moscow Organising Committee will spare no effort to make the Games in Moscow fully successful and to run them without a hitch or any troubles.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet



Boris Tulin (URS), engineer, has just presented a new Olympic torch which will be used to transport the flame from Olympia to Moscow; "sheltered from the wind and rain", specified the Soviet technician.

Government consistently render great assistance to us in creating the best possible conditions for staging the Games.

We believe that the Olympic Games in Moscow should bring the Olympic movement to a new, higher stage, strengthen it and promote its further development.

And this stand of ours is shared by the IOC, the IFs, the NOCs, and by millions of sports enthusiasts, people of goodwill all over our planet.

The mass media you represent should be more active in this promotion of the Olympic ideals.

"... At present, the Soviet peoples are preparing for the 1980 Games in Moscow and will do everything they can to assure their high standard and to give new impulse to the lofty ideas of friendship and peace," said Comrade L.I. Brezhnev in his address to the members of the IOC, the Organising Committee and competitors in the Olympic Games in Montreal.

And while preparing for the Games of the XXIIInd Olympiad, we are striving to turn them into a real world festival of sports, to make it possible for athletes from all continents of the world to demonstrate as best they can their abilities and the will to win.

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