

The Press Commission in Moscow - 27th March

Members of the IOC Press Commission met for a full-day session in the building on the banks of the Moskva River which is to serve as the press centre during the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad. All present expressed satisfaction with the many critical decisions taken which are to have a profound effect on press coverage of this summer's events.

Of prime importance was the decision enabling all recognised NOCs to accredit journalists to the Games, irrespective of whether their athletes are taking part. The quotas for each country will be determined in accordance with traditional criteria, that is the importance of the NOC in question and the size of its Olympic delegation. Moreover, the final deadline for submission of journalists' accreditations was extended until 1st June. Any alterations to be made to the allocation of quotas, taking into account unclaimed accreditations and newly received requests, are to be formulated by a subcommittee which is to meet in Lausanne on 2nd June.

Other major decisions taken at the meeting :

- The OCOG is to study the possibility of issuing visas valid from 28th June to 8th August for journalists. The question of drawing up substitution forms in the event a journalist cannot attend the Games is also to be discussed.
- Journalists are no longer required to pay for their accommodation in advance. In order to reserve rooms, press representatives will now be requested to pay a deposit equivalent to five days' accommodation by 1st June (90 roubles in the Rossiya Hotel, 120 roubles in the Kosmos Hotel).
- The OCOG is to examine the possibility of negotiating better terms for car rentals.
- Press facilities at football stadia in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Minsk are

to be reviewed by the OCOG and media seating increased should such a measure prove necessary.

- Proposals concerning the improvement of press facilities at swimming and athletics events are to be considered by the OCOG, which promised to provide plans of existing facilities.

Members of the Commission were taken on a tour of both the press centre, the internal installations of which are nearing completion, and the major sports venues in the Soviet capital.

Following the close of the meeting, Commission members were met by Mr. Ignati T. Novikov, President of the Moscow OCOG, and informal discussions took place. As pointed out by Mr. Novikov, the meeting constituted the first Olympic event to be held in Moscow this year.

In his address, Mr. Novikov stressed the OCOG's desire to adhere strictly to the tenets of the Olympic movement as set down in the "Olympic Charter". Referring to the outcome of the IOC meetings in Lake Placid, he said that the Soviet authorities had been duly informed of the IOC's concern that the Games be held amid an appropriate atmosphere and emphasised that in the view of the organisers, the staging of the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad should not be linked in any way to political events.

Mr. Novikov concluded by expressing his gratitude to members of the Commission and to the Director of the IOC for the work which had been accomplished. He stated that in his view the decisions taken would contribute greatly to objective coverage of the forthcoming Olympic Games.

The next meeting of the Press Commission is to take place prior to the opening of the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad, on 10th July at 14.30 hours at the House of Unions in Moscow.

