

IOC Circulars

To : National Olympic Committees :
cc : Members of the International Olympic Committee.

Lausanne, 24th March 1980

Re : WIPO Diplomatic Conference.

To : All press representatives ;

All NOCs ;

cc : IOC Press Commission.

Lausanne. 20th March 1980

Re : Accreditation procedure

... As you are undoubtedly aware, a number of difficulties were encountered at the XIIIth Winter Games in Lake Placid with respect to proper accreditation procedures in connection with IOC press conferences and briefings. It is my hope that for the IOC meetings to be held in April and for the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad in Moscow, everyone will be thoroughly familiar with the accreditation process and that no misunderstandings will arise.

Please bear in mind that all applications for accreditation to the IOC Session must be submitted to IOC headquarters through the National Olympic Committee of the country in question. This provision, applicable to all concerned, is intended to ensure that only bona fide journalists may gain access to IOC conferences, the NOCs being best in a position to determine the authenticity of any given candidate. It should be emphasised that even those requests submitted after the stated deadline can only be processed through the intermediary of the appropriate NOC. In certain countries, where there exist associations of professional journalists, it is recommended that the NOC seek their advice and assistance in carrying out the accreditation procedure.

Should you require any further information concerning the April meetings or the accreditation procedure in general, please do not hesitate to contact me...

... As announced in a previous circular, the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) had convened a diplomatic conference in Geneva, from 4th February to 4th March 1980, to revise the Paris Convention on the protection of industrial property and to conclude a Protocol or some other instrument concerning the protection of the Olympic symbol.

The Conference was unable to discuss any problem of substance, being prevented right till the end by a disagreement concerning the majority needed to adopt the new texts. It was only *in extremis* that an agreement was reached, the Assembly of the Paris Union being asked to approve, at an extraordinary meeting next September, the idea of continuing the Conference.

However, the February/March Conference was not unfavourable to the protection of the Olympic symbol. Private conversations showed that countries would not object to a separate instrument instead of a Protocol attached to the Paris Convention, that a two-thirds majority of the votes would be sufficient and that the best means of achieving the desired goal would be a special diplomatic Conference, independent of that convened to revise the Paris Convention. The Government of Kenya then issued an invitation to a special Conference to be held in Nairobi in 1981.

Subject to the decision reached by the Assembly of the Paris Union next September, one may therefore assume that a special diplomatic Conference, convened for the purpose of drawing up a separate treaty concerning the protection of the Olympic symbol, will be held in Nairobi in 1981 and that only two-thirds of the votes cast by the countries taking part would be required for the treaty to be adopted.

As soon as the Assembly of the Paris Union has been held, you will be informed of the decisions reached with regard to the protection of the Olympic symbol...