

Around the National Olympic Committees

Saudi Arabia

• In order to bring up to date the study on "Saudi Arabia and Olympism" which appeared in the "Olympic Review" No. 132 and the "Encyclopedia of National Olympic Committees" (Volume 1), the president of the NOC, HRH Prince Faisal Fahad Abdulaziz, has provided the following information :

- *New national sports federations affiliated to the NOC* : gymnastics, judo and similar disciplines, shooting, and a federation of strength sports (boxing, wrestling, weightlifting and bodybuilding).
- *Statistics concerning facilities* : 5 omnisport centres (football pitch, athletics track, gymnasium, small swimming pool, youth hostel for 100 visitors, etc.) for 30,000 spectators ; 3 football pitches surrounded by athletics tracks with grandstands capable of seating 25,000 spectators ; 13 omnisport centres (football pitch, athletics track, small swimming pool, gymnasium, etc.) for 10,000-12,000 spectators ; 3 covered Olympic swimming pools (5,500 spectators) ; 3 gymnasiums (5,500 spectators); 20 football pitches without track or grandstands, as well as various other facilities for other sports.



Belgium



• *1981 : 75th anniversary of the COIB*

Created in 1906, the Belgian Interfederal and Olympic Committee is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. A wide-ranging programme of activities has been drawn up.

Between March and December there will be many sports competitions to celebrate the event.

A roll of honour of Belgian sport is to be published, and an exhibition on the theme "art and sport" will be organised.

Finally, the COIB will be taking part in the first sports show which is planned to take place from 21st to 29th March 1981. There will be round tables each day in collaboration with the federations. Each federation will have free use of an area of 12 sq. metres. Space has also been allocated for sports demonstrations.



Spain

• *HM Juan Carlos, King of Spain*, received in audience the members of the Spanish Olympic delegation who particularly distinguished themselves this summer at the Games celebrating the XXIIInd Olympiad.

• With the aim of ensuring brilliant participation of *Spanish athletics* at the 1984 Olympic Games, the Executive Committee of the national athletics federation has approved the technical plan put forward by Mr Carlos Gil.

• *The Higher Council Sport* is to devote approximately 23,000 million pesetas (519,800,000.- Swiss francs) to the encouragement, development and protection of both popular and competition sport in the period 1981-1982.

- The Commission for high level competition sport (Comisión del Deporte de Alta Competición) set up 2nd December last year at the meeting of the Higher Council for Sport brings together the presidents of seven national federations : Miguel Company (yachting), Juan Manuel de Hoz (athletics), Enrique Landa (swimming), HH Alfonso de Borbon (winter sports), Joaquin Dualde (hockey), Felix Fernández (gymnastics) and Ernesto Segura (basketball).



Finland

- *The athlete Lasse Viren* (31) Olympic champion in the 5000 m and 10 000 m events both in Munich in 1972 and Montreal in 1976, who still managed to come in 5th in the 10 000 m event in Moscow in 1980, has said goodbye to international competition. He took part in his last event on 22nd November 1980 at a cross-country in Gateshead (GBR), where he was the guest of his old opponent and friend Brendan Foster (GBR).



France

- *The first national scientific congress of the French society of sports medicine* will take place from 27th to 31st May 1981 in Grenoble.

- *Mr. Adriaan Paulen and Mr. John Halt.* respectively president and secretary general of the IAAF, took part in the French athletics federation's 60th anniversary celebrations. In mentioning his links with the history of French athletics, Mr. Paulen recalled : "My nicest memory goes back to 1923 to the *University Games at the Porte Dorée in Paris*; my worst one goes back to 1924 at the *Olympic Games in Colombes* at which, although I had achieved the fourth best time in the 400 m, I did not qualify for the final..."

- *The national canoe and kayak day* recently organised under the auspices of the departmental office of the Ministry for Youth, Sport and

Leisure, in conjunction with the departmental committee of the Val de Marne, was a considerable success, bringing together 493 participants. The event was attended by several great athletes, including two Moscow Olympic finalists, Patrick Lefoulon and Patrick Berard, who demonstrated various canoe and kayak techniques.



Iraq

- *The executive board of the Iraqi NOC* was renewed on 29th March last year, and is now made up as follows :

PT: Mr. Kareem Mahmoud Hussain ; *VPT:* Dr. Amir Ismail Hakki ; *SG:* Mr. Fahmi Sabri Arif; *Ms:* Mrs. Nahidha Yousif Mohammed, Mr. Natiq Shakir Mahmoud, Mr. Salem Daoud Al-Jassar ; Brig. Nashat Mahir Al-Salman, Mr. Fawzi Laeibi Hmoud, Mr. Taha Mahmoud Salman, Mr. Shawqi Abboud Ahmed, Mr. Qutaiba Ahmed Shehab, Lt.-Col. Itham Abid Al-Karkhi, Mr. Fadhil Zaidan Khalaf and Dr. Najim Abdullah Al-Iraqi.

- *New address of the NOC:* Kharbandah, PO Box 441, Baghdad.

Telephone : 98874, 98879.

Cables : IROC.



Luxembourg

- *The general assembly of the COSL* is scheduled to take place on 7th February 1981 in Luxembourg City.

- *The possibilities of introducing computerisation* into the administration and management of the federations is currently being studied by the COSL authorities,

Netherlands



- *An international conference on sports medicine* is to take place from 23rd to 26th March 1981 in Utrecht. The main theme will be the muscle.



German Democratic Republic



• All those who took part in the preparation as well as in the successes of the 1980 Olympic delegations of the GDR NOC were invited by the Chairman of the Council of State., Mr Erich Honecker, to a ball organised in then honour. Thus 3000 athletes, coaches, administrators, doctors, journalists and various other people met on 21st August 1980 at the “Palace of the Republic” and ensured the success of the rendez-vous (See photo).

Switzerland



• *The Swiss federal council* recently appointed Mr Wolfgang Weiss, who is at present head of training in the youth and sport movement, head of the education section of the federal sports school in Macolin. He will replace Mr Hans Rüegegger, who is to retire in the spring. In addition to being in charge of the teaching staff, Mr Weiss will also be responsible for all the training courses held at the school and for drawing up the school’s basic teaching policy.

• 15 to 20 % of Swiss television viewers regularly watch sports broadcasts. The percentage rises to 35 % for live broadcasts, and even higher for skiing.

USSR



• *Mr Alexis Pozriakov* has accepted a further mandate as President of the national weightlifting federation.

• *The Soviet basketball federation* has no less than 3,500,000 registered members,

• *Valery Borzov*, Olympic athletics champion in the 100 m and 200 m events in Munich in 1972, has been named secretary of the Central Council for the Ukrainian Youth Organisation. We can imagine that sport will not be missing from the programme !

• *The climbers who reached a 4500 m peak in the Pamir-Alai mountains* have proposed calling it “the peak of the Games of the XXIIInd Olympiad”.

