

IOC and IFs in Sarajevo

2nd-4th December 1981

The meetings held in Sarajevo (YUG) coincided with a winter snow storm, perhaps a valid introduction for the next Olympic winter Games. Outside the hotel, set against a white background of light snowfall, trees were blanketed with a fresh white coating and local men and women were bundled up for the cold. Unfortunately these conditions greatly affected the arrival most of the IOC Executive Board, the International Federations and the international journalists who travelled long distances to be present for the meetings.



The President of the IOC (center) at the bobsleigh and luge course, accompanied by Mr. Bert Isatitsch, President of the FIL, Mr. Klaus Kotter, President of the FIBT, Mr. Anton Susic and Mr. Jan Steler, Secretary General of the FIL (from left to right).



From left to right Mr Beat Häsler, Secretary General of the ISU, Mr Marc Hodler, FIS President and Klaus Kotter

The first meeting that was held on 2nd December consisted of the Executive Board, the six Winter IFs (FIBT, FIL, FIS, IIHF, ISU and UIPMB), and the Sarajevo Organising Committee of the Winter Games (OCOG). The entire Executive Board was present except for

Messrs. Vitaly Smirnov and Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye, who were absent for reasons of health. Representing the OCOG were Mr. Boris Bakrac, IOC member for Yugoslavia since 1960, Mr. Branko Mikulic, President of the OCOG, Mr. Anton Susic, President of the Executive Committee for the OCOG. There also were Messrs. Slobodan Filipovic, President of his NOC, Caslav Veljic, Secretary General of his NOC, and Ahmed Karabegovic, Secretary General of the OCOG.

Mr. Susic gave an expose on the state of preparations for the approaching Games in 1984. Following this, not surprisingly, the first topic of discussion was the transportation problems that could be encountered and must be avoided at all costs. As proved in the 24 hours before these meetings by almost all the members present snow and wind can indeed cause terrific delays in arrival. IOC President Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch stressed that alternative routing by air and train must be explored and the answers to this problem must be found and put into action before the winter of 1984.

Los Angeles 1984 and the television rights

The Executive Board approved the contract between the Organising Committee of the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad and the European Broadcasting Union for a sum of 19.8 million dollars of which 12 million will go to rights.

Many other items were discussed this first morning of meetings, including administrative and technical matters. One important point that was brought up was that a night luge race had been scheduled for the first day of competitions of the Games. Because of the lack of sufficient light to produce colour for television broadcast, it was decided that all races will be held during the day to avoid television colour problems. Also, the Yugoslavian OCOG requested that the 2 runs of the men's and women's Giant Slalom be held on 2 different days. The rules state that the 2 runs must be held on the same day to maintain like conditions for the racers. The Executive Board agreed to take this request into consideration and a decision will be reached in May 1982.

The information offered on lodging, press coverage, medical and technical publications available were all considered in satisfactory preparation.

The afternoon meetings joined the Executive Board with the winter International Federations. It was decided an Assembly of International Winter Sports Federations would be considered by the Executive Board. If the new Assembly is accepted, Mr. Marc Hodler, IOC member for Switzerland, will head this organisation. This was approved the following day.

Pre-Olympic competitions were clarified. The outcome was that these events are organised by the OCOG as test competitions and qualifying finals before the Games.

The agenda for the second morning of meetings consisted of a visit to the sites while at the same time a session of the Television Commission was held.

The tour of the facilities began with the viewing of the Kosevo stadium, which is practically finished. It will be the site of the opening ceremonies. Nearby is Zetra which is still under construction and consists of the sports center where the artistic skating events will be held and the outdoor speed skating oval.

The group of Executive Board members, IF representatives, the OCOG and journalists then went on to see the TV center and the Olympic Village. Two of the three buildings are completed and ready for habitation. The next stop was Skenderija where the ice hockey games will be played. This complex is being renovated along with a new hall that is being built that will house the main press center, restaurant facilities and administrative area.

The entourage then left the city and climbed up into the mountains, visiting Trebevic, site of the bobsled and luge events. Construction there was in an advanced stage. Jahorina,

IOC Commissions

The new composition of IOC Commissions was accepted by the Executive Board in Sarajevo. The list will be given in the next edition of the "Olympic Directory".



Mr. Anton Sucic, with some of his guests, Mr. Günter Sabetzki, President of the IIHF, Colonel Wille O. Grut, Secretary General of the UIPMB, left and Mr. Häsler (right).

the location of the women's alpine races, will be totally completed 15th December 1981 when an official competition will be held.

Due to the shortage of time and the scheduled meetings for the rest of the day, Bjelasnica, the ski area for the men's alpine events, and Igman, the site of the biathlon, cross-country and jumping events, were not viewed but the consensus was that everything seemed to be advancing well and that the facilities will be prepared by 1984 for the 14th winter Games.

At the meeting of the IOC Television Commission the representative of the Sarajevo OCOG presented a report on the proposed television coverage for the Games. The accommodations and working conditions for commentaries and television teams were discussed and it was determined that progress was being made. The report included in-depth coverage of the broadcasting center which, at the end of the meeting, was visited by the Television Commission and various national and international journalists.

That afternoon the Executive Board met again with the winter IFs to conclude any outstanding matters. It was decided that the final programme for the slalom ski events would be resolved by 18th June 1982 between the FIS and the OCOG. Victory ceremonies for all outdoor events will be held together at the end of each day during the

Games in the center of town. Mr. Samaranch concluded that he was extremely pleased with the preparations in Sarajevo.

The final day of meetings, Friday the 5th, consisted of a session of the Executive Board. At this time Mr. Arpad Csanadi was promoted Honorary Sports Director. The new headquarters for the IOC in Lausanne were further discussed, of which the buildings that will house the library and Museum are scheduled to be opened the 23rd June 1982, which is the celebration of Olympic Day. Mr. Raymond Gafner, IOC member for Switzerland will be the IOC delegate to this new complex.

That afternoon Mr. Samaranch met with the Mayor of Sarajevo, visited the headquarters of the OCOG and then gave a final press conference. At the briefing, in which several members of the Executive Board and the IOC Director M^{me} Monique Berlioux were present, the President summed up the meetings of the last three days, answered questions, and then thanked the Sarajevo OCOG for the work and preparations that have so far been accomplished. He mentioned that at the end of 1982 he would return for the opening of the new ice arena. He hoped that the 1984 winter Games would be the best in Olympic history.

