

Sarajevo 1981: after a hard working year

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The preparations for the XIVth Winter Olympic Games are progressing in a most promising way-so it was certified during the meeting held in Sarajevo the beginning of December 1981 between the Executive Board of the IOC with delegates of the six international winter sports federations. Progressing so well in fact, that the President of the IOC did not hesitate to declare in front of the journalists that he hoped that the Winter Games in Sarajevo would be the best in Olympic history.

1981 well merits being attributed "a hard-working year" after one-half of the total anticipated costs have been already used. At the end of 1981 a survey of Sarajevo's Olympic area makes quite an impression:

The three runs for the women's alpine events at Jahorina, as well as the slopes for the men's giant and special slaloms at Bjelasnica, were approved the 16th December. Because of bad weather conditions at Bjelasnica (for which its name is derived-"that which is white") work on the installation of the three-seat chairlift that will cover the distance of the downhill run has been delayed; its approval will be determined in the coming months.

Olympic palace under construction in Zetra.



In regard to the cross-country and biathlon courses at Igman, the trails and shooting area have been ready since 1979. The Juniors World Championships were held at this venue in February 1980.

The jumping events will also take place at Igman. Everything is ready for the construction of the 70 and 90 meter jumps. The facilities will be completed, as well as all other Olympic installations, before the winter of 1982/83.

Due to the various drawbacks in the organisation of large-scale snow and ice events, the host country for the XIVth Winter Games has established a schedule for the coming winter so that its preparations will be truly an Olympic effort. Thus, the functioning of the installations, the organisation of the events, the total preparedness of the surroundings-briefly-all that goes into the well-running of the Games will be strictly supervised and double-checked during this "pre-Olympic" winter.

The period before the actual Games will be reserved for any rectifications and changes. Therefore let us return to the subject of the competition sites:

The construction of the "Olympic Hall", located at the Zetra sports centre, and the "Auxiliary Hall", which is part of the other sports and cultural centre, Skenderija, will be the sites for artistic skating and ice hockey events. Their construction is in an advanced stage. This is also the case for the bobsleigh and luge sites at Trebevic, which looms over the old city. Also at Zetra a small stadium that will encircle the speed-skiing oval is in the making. This will have a seating capacity of 10,000.

All of the Civil Engineering work along with the necessary equipment must be prepared before the end of Autumn 1982.

This is the general scope of the state of preparedness of the competition sites of the next Winter Olympic Games.

The construction of the press centre, communication lines and transportation routes, the Olympic villages as well as all the preparations for the organisation of the Games are on schedule and meeting the expectations of the Organising Committee of the XIVth Winter Games.

