



Los Angeles 84



- In a message to IOC President H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, Mr. Harry L. Usher, Executive Vice President and General Manager of LAOOC, wrote:

"The Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee was pleased to announce at a news conference... that you have generously offered to exhibit your private Olympic philately collection during the 1984 Olympic Games here in Los Angeles. We also announced that this wonderful exhibit will take place at the Pasadena Centre Exhibition Hall.

The occasion of the announcement was part of the first day issue ceremony wherein a block of four commemorative stamps honouring the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles were issued.

These stamps will be the first in a series of stamps and postal stationery items commemorating the 1984 Olympic Games, to be issued during 1983 and 1984. Again we greatly appreciate your generous offer to exhibit your personal Olympic philately collection during the 1984 Games.

With best personal regards... "



The poster by Jennifer Boutlett

- *"The task of organising the Games is worthy of Yankee ingenuity. With an opening budget of nearly half a billion dollars, next years Games will show the world what Americans, without federal subsidy, can accomplish when they set their minds to it".*

The speaker was the President of the United States, *Ronald Reagan*, at a fund-raising dinner for the USOC, in the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles (600 people paid \$500 each to attend!)

"The price tag for selecting, training and supplying your (ie US) Olympic team for next year's Games has risen to over \$77 million", he said. "Raising that money and making sure it is spent effectively is an enormous responsibility And this year Americans are not only supporting their own team but they are also responsible for the Games themselves. Unlike some countries, American teams, as you well know, do not receive government grants or federal tax dollars. This gladdens my heart, not because we are having financial problems in Washington, but because of the feeling in this country to let government do it... if we are to do right by the athletes of America, we've got to do it ourselves. And we owe it to ourselves, to our children, and to our country's future to make sure this job gets done..."

The President recalled how he once had dreams of becoming an Olympian, but these were dashed when his high school 880yds. relay team – he was a member – lost in the Illinois state championship to a team which included *Ralph Metcalfe*. *"Ralph Metcalfe" said the President, "went on to win medals in the 1932 and 1936 Olympics – he and Jesse Owens were very special to my generation"*.

- *Charles Gale*, LAOOC Vice President /Sports, announced earlier this month that LAOOC and Glavsportprom of the Committee for Physical Culture and Sport under the Council of Ministers of the USSR have formally agreed a contract for the use of Glavsportprom electronic fencing equipment for the 1984 Olympic Games.

Said Mr. Gale *"We have anticipated use of this fine equipment for some time, and we are*

delighted that all the arrangements and details have flow been completed. We are assured that the 1984 Olympic fencers will have the use of the finest electronic sensing equipment available, for competition and training during the Games”.

The Soviet delegation included Yuri Zhukov, head of Glavsportprom, who said, *“Although contractual negotiations are never very easy, we are very pleased with the outcome of these discussions. We have also enjoyed the opportunity to see the 1984 Olympic competition and training facilities. The LAOOC’s hospitality has been most generous”.*

- The International Equestrian Federation has approved of Fairbanks Ranch in San Diego County as the venue for the speed and endurance section of the Three-Day Event. There will be a two-day rest period to allow participants to travel to and from Fairbanks Ranch.

A single-ring arena will be constructed at Santa Anita Park to accomodate the jumping and dressage events, and the FEI has also decided that the final grand prix jumping event will be held at Santa Anita.

- “Sports Illustrated”, one of the world’s finest sports publications and an official “sponsor” of the Los Angeles Games, will publish a special Olympics preview number which will be the official magazine of the Olympic Games. and is expected to contain some 300 pages.

In addition, the magazine will publish a special preview issue, in addition to its regular weekly issue published in the week of July 15, 1984, which is expected to be a “monster” of probably 400 pages.

Prominent in the editorial team responsible for these issues, and indeed continuous Olympics coverage, will be *Anita Verschoth*, as associate editor of the magazine but more important a loyal friend of the Olympic Movement, and in effect Sports Illustrated’s full-time Olympic Games writer – she has been covering the Games, Winter and Summer, since 1960.