



FIRST OLYMPIC MEETINGS IN CALGARY

Host city for the XVth Olympic Winter Games, Calgary was the scene of a series of Olympic meetings from the 23rd to the 28th February, 1985, including the first IOC Executive Board meeting to take place on Canadian soil since the Games of the XXIst Olympiad in Montreal in 1976.



Work sessions, various reports, visits to sites, receptions, of which the high spot was the award of an honorary doctorate in law to IOC President, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, by the University of Calgary (see frame), were on the programme of that week, characterised by slight snowfalls interspersed with periods of "chinook", the warm wind typical of this region of the north American continent.

As a prelude to the Executive Board meeting, the members of the Press Sub-commission met on the 23rd and 24th of February, 1985, to study the weighty file of the "Minimum requirements for the electronic, written and photographic coverage and broadcasting by radio and television of the Games

of the Olympiad and the Olympic Winter Games". This document was exhaustively examined and numerous modifications were submitted to the Executive Board for approval (See decisions page 145).

The following day, the Calgary OCOG invited Messrs. Bob Miyakawa, Morley Myers, Albert Riethausen, John Rodda, Matti Salmenkylä and Jae Hong Lee (Seoul OCOG) on a visit to the sites and facilities specially planned for the press. "Stampede Park", site of the "Saddledome", the stadium which will house the ice-hockey and artistic skating events, will also contain the Main Press Centre ("Roundup Centre") and the international radio broadcasting centre ("Big Four"). For the first time, common

services – catering and general services – will be provided for all types of media. This proposal by OCO '88 was very much welcomed by the experts of the Sub-commission. Mr. Morley Myers will say more on this in his article on page 147.

On the 25th February 1985 at 9.00, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch declared open the meeting of the Executive Board, attended by all members with the exception of Mr. Kéba Mbaye, detained by a session of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Among the items on the packed agenda, two issues figured prominently : the revision of the "Olympic Charter" and the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary. That day's work was entirely given over to the first of those themes. A new working document will be prepared and studied in Berlin. The approval of the definitive text should take place during the 91st Session in Lausanne in October 1986.

An original and lively presentation, based on a visit to an exhibition of models, plans and videographs – a new technique which provides instant visual feedback based on the data of a site or building – of the various sites, ensured the success of the report of OCO '88, presented by the President, Mr. Frank King, the Director General, Mr. Bill Pratt, the President of the Canadian NOC, Mr. Roger Jackson and Mr. Danny Russell, Vice President, Legal Affairs (see page 146).

After a fresh working session on the morning of the 27th February, the Executive Board members visited the Olympic Park which in three years time will be the site of the ski jump, luge and bobsleigh events, before going on to the Saddledome to watch an ice-hockey match between the local team, the "Calgary Flames", and the "New York Islanders", which was started by H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch and Mr. Ralph Klein, Mayor of the Olympic city. At the opening of the ceremony, Mr. Frank King, President of OCO '88, was handed by Mr. Otto Jelinek, Federal Minister for Physical Education and Amateur Sport and world artistic skating champion in 1962, a cheque for 4.5 million dollars, part of the financial aid given by the Federal Government to the XVth Winter Games in Calgary. Before the match, the IOC President presented the "Olympic Order" to Mr. Günther Sabetzki, President of the International Ice-Hockey Federation (IIHF).

On the morning of the 28th February, the Executive Board sat in the presence of representatives of the six International Federations which govern an Olympic Winter Sport (see decisions,



page 145), led by the President of the Assemblée Internationale des Fédérations de Sports d'hiver, Mr. Marc Hodler. That evening, at a press conference, the IOC President reaffirmed the IOC's satisfaction with the progress of preparations for the Games in Calgary.

A reception given in honour of the IOC by Mr. Peter Lougheed, Prime Minister of Alberta, who had accompanied the IOC President on a helicopter visit to all the Olympic sites that afternoon, brought to a close this week of intense Olympic activity.

The next meeting of the Executive Board is due to take place in Lausanne on the 28th May 1985.