



HELLO FROM VIDY

It is natural that the activity of the IOC and its President should feature frequently among the leading news stories of the day. The IOC's press conferences are crowd-drawing events among the media. It is just as natural that the IOC administration should work without a great fuss, out of the limelight. Our "Hello from Vidy" is therefore simply an attempt to establish friendly, and if possible, smiling contact between the members of the Olympic family and the IOC staff who work for them.

What do these members of staff really do in their day-to-day work? The question is justified when we think of the mistrustful and sometimes jealous curiosity aroused by international organisations, governmental and non-governmental, some of which are not regarded as paragons of efficiency. On the other hand, public opinion, even the best intentioned, persists in the belief that the IOC acts only every four years at the time of the Olympic Games. Not infrequently, letters arrive at Vidy addressed to the "International Committee of the Olympic Games", which was in fact the original name in 1894. This image is totally outdated today. The IOC, which now possesses the resources necessary for its policy, can in future wholeheartedly pursue its true objective: to make sport into one of the major positive social forces of our era throughout the world. Every step taken by the IOC to this end sets in motion a complex machinery, the wheels of which turn at its headquarters in Lausanne. It is therefore well worthwhile, I feel, to illustrate, by means of a number of examples, the tasks that this year 1986, which has just begun, has in store for the administration of the IOC.

It goes without saying that the preparations for the Olympic Games of 1988 are in full swing. In two years, the Winter Games in Calgary will be upon us. Certainly, it is the Organising Committees (OCOGs) who man the front lines, but they receive constant support from the IOC in a multiplicity of forms and through the work of teams which much be kept operative. At all events, the major problems lie elsewhere. One of them will, I hope, be on the point of being eliminated when these lines are published. I am speaking about the signature of the contract between the

American television network NBC, on the one hand, and the IOC and the Seoul OCOG, on the other. Several eventful months have passed in anticipation of this signature. Contracts with television networks on other continents will follow.

With regard to the IOC's efforts, which are beginning to dispel the clouds darkening the skies over Seoul, they have been the object of an abundance of comments. The meeting held in Lausanne in October 1985 between the IOC and delegations from the two Korean NOCs was followed in the first days of 1986 by a second round

of discussions. A third is planned for June 1986. Between then and now, the persistent and discreet efforts of Olympic diplomacy will continue, with the train of logistical exigencies they entail.

Increasingly, the theme of the Games of 1992 will be taking its place in our 1986 diaries alongside those of 1988. Thus, the IOC Executive Board will be holding parallel talks on these two themes with the International Winter Sports Federations in February in Lausanne, with the NOCs in April in Seoul and in September, again in Seoul, with the International Summer Sports Federations. Starting now, the IOC, NOC and IF study groups will be visiting separately the fourteen candidate cities for the organisation of the 1992 Games. In early April, the reports which will pile up at Vidy will have to be examined and analysed in preparation for what will be the high point of the year 1986 in Olympic terms : the 91st IOC Session to be held in October in Lausanne, during which the host cities for the 1992 Games will be chosen. There are exciting contests in prospect, which will be watched by the whole world, kept on tenterhooks by 800 representatives of the mass media, who expect, of course, to be provided with impeccable working conditions.

The following steps are already being taken. Initial reconnaissance work for the 92nd IOC Session to be held in Istanbul in 1987 and for the forthcoming Olympic Congress in Tokyo in 1990 will be carried out in Spring of this year. To season the mixture, the IOC has included in its Lausanne programme a symposium on the relevance of Pierre de Coubertin today, to be held in May, and the start of construction work on its new Museum in Ouchy ; in September, the new administrative building at Vidy will come into operation and in October, on the eve of the Session, the fifth Olympic Week will be celebrated here in Lausanne. There will be a series of exhibitions at the temporary premises of the Museum throughout the year.

There is another aspect of the IOC's activities which deserves further explanation, namely the work of the twenty or so Commissions which work for the progress of Olympic life in a multiplicity of spheres. I shall return to this topic at leisure in another edition of "Hello from Vidy".

Raymond Gañer
Editor-in-Chief