

TRANSMITTING THE OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

by ARTUR TAKAC

At the end of May 1984, the IOC Executive Board named Mr. Artur Takac Personal Adviser to the IOC President for matters concerning the preparation and organization of the Olympic Games and other multisport continental and regional competitions. In making this decision, the Executive Board demonstrated its esteem for Mr. Takac's many years of practical experience and worldwide cooperation with the organizing committees of ten Olympic Games and four Olympic Winter Games. His extensive experience is especially confirmed in his function as Special Adviser to the President of the Organizing Committee of the Games of the XXIst Olympiad, 1976 in Montreal, and as Technical Director of the XIVth Olympic Winter Games, Sarajevo '84. The *Olympic Review* has asked Mr. Takac to speak of his first year of activity in his new capacity.

Already, at the beginning of my explanation, I should point out that I was confronted with a function which was not easy to define, neither by volume, nor by the best manner of approaching the different organizing committees.

First of all, it must be made clear that the organizing committees of Olympic Games and of Olympic Winter Games are quite independent bodies, cooperating with the IOC and the International Federations, but, at the same time, related to specific local conditions and valuable traditions in their own countries. Each organizing committee tries to encourage, in a positive way,

the selection and improvement of its own technical officials and experts and to outline the specific cultural and historical values of its country. I was aware that the transmission of experience from the past, even of very successfully organized Games, was a task which could only be realized with full respect of all existing values of the future organizing countries.

Personally, I considered it important for all committees to generalize and accept those experiences which could positively influence the following spheres of the preparation and organization of the Games :

- a) How to organize the Games rationally with optimal precision, fully respecting the rules of the International Federations as well as the principles and regulations stipulated by the "Olympic Charter";
- b) How to achieve maximum efficiency by developing plans for the Games as basic documents for their preparation and direct organization ;
- c) How to ensure a high level of rationality in selecting and preparing the necessary volunteers and professional staff who will ensure effective organization of the Games ;
- d) Which technological experiences could be transferred from past to future organizers, taking into consideration the foreseen development of electronic technology in the period prior to the realization of the forthcoming Games.

Under these conditions, and in order to facilitate the work and planning of different organizing committees, general instructions have been developed under the title :

"The role and the tasks of the organizing committee and its bodies a few weeks prior to and in the period of the realization of the Games - method and organization of the direction of the Games."

In this document, the following basic issues are particularly emphasized :

1. Senior Management of the Games
2. The Main Operating Centre of the Games
3. The Main Communications Centre
4. The Operating Units in the Venues and their Basic Role in the Organization of the Games

CONTACTS WITH OLYMPIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEES FOR 1988

In the period from 14th to 19th February 1985, experience contacts were set up with the main technical departments of the Organizing Committee of the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad in Seoul. During a two-day seminar, held after a detailed visit to all existing venues and those under construction, basic questions on the methods of organization and direction of the Games were examined. At the discussions, conducted with indispensable flexibility, the main planning personnel of the Seoul Games and responsible directors of the sport, construction and electronic technology departments were present.



Being in Calgary from 22nd February to 2nd March, for the meeting of the IOC Executive Board with the Presidents and Secretary Generals of the Olympic International Winter Sports Federations, enabled me to accept Mr. Frank King's invitation to meet with responsible planners and executives of the Calgary Winter Games Organizing Committee, of which he is President. On this occasion, main experiences from the last Winter Olympic Games, Sarajevo '84, were presented and analytically discussed with respective members of the OCOG. Special attention was paid to the preparation and practical daily maintenance of the venues for downhill and cross-country skiing. The Mount Allan alpine skiing area was visited, with the FIS President and IOC member Mr. Marc Hodler, with a practical overview taken from the starting areas to the finish lines.

TECHNICAL CONTACTS WITH CANDIDATE CITIES FOR THE GAMES OF 1992

With the exception of Anchorage (planned for March 1986), all cities applying to organize the XVth Olympic Winter Games in 1992 were visited in January and March of 1985. Major experiences gained during the Sarajevo'84 Olympic Winter Games were presented to all candidate cities. Recognizing that the applications should be prepared in maximum conformity with the requirements of the International Federations

and the IOC, the following general concerns were identified :

- the most suitable concentration of the sport venues and the housing facilities for athletes, press, radio, television and representatives of the Olympic family ;
- highway and communication systems, maintenance of transport means in winter conditions ;
- general difficulties created by unpredictable meteorological conditions ;
- coordination with technical delegates of the International Federations, numerous specialized local technical officials, and well-prepared and -trained army departments.

For the preparation of the application documents, the candidate cities were advised to comply with the questions outlined by the IOC and the International Sports Federations and to respect the important experience gained by the NOCs; all this, based on local conditions and rational solutions.

At the request of the Summer Games applying committees, the cities of Amsterdam, Barcelona, Belgrade and Brisbane have been visited. Birmingham and Paris have also invited visits and the terms will be settled in the near future. The same general principles, adapted to the conditions under which the Summer Games should be held, were discussed with the candidate cities. The best concentration of competition and of other areas of the Games, suitable rapid communication and other general questions to which the completed applications should give clear answers were examined.

The adoption of a general areal plan of construction of sport facilities within reasonable time limits and in conformity with future needs, was underlined as a major task of the cities.

ASSISTING IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GAMES OF SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

A positive initiative developed by the NOCs of small European Countries to establish, within the Olympic Movement, their own simple and modest Games, was strongly supported by the IOC and its President. Representatives of Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco and San Marino decided to stage the 1st Games of Small European Countries in San Marino from 23rd to 26th May 1985. During a prelimin-

ary visit, from 19th to 21 st April, technical details and the organization of these first Games were studied in depth with the members of the the NOC of San Marino. Several days before the opening of the Games in May, practicable cooperation was established between the different departments of the Organizing Committee. Numerous volunteers and technical officials, headed by the NOC President, Mr. Domenico Bruschi, succeeded in preparing these Games in an extremely small amount of time. Finally, with 284 participants, good organization and results were achieved in the following sports on the programme : athletics, basketball, cycling, shooting, swimming, judo and weightlifting.

The Games were solemnly opened in the presence of the IOC President, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC members in Italy, Messrs. Giorgio de Stefani and Franco Carraro, and the President of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), Mr. Primo Nebiolo.

After the evident success in San Marino, activity to strengthen these Games continued at meetings in Rolle (SUI) and Budapest (HUN). The representatives of the NOCs, deciding that the Games should be held every odd year, have developed regulations and technical rules for them. Consequently, the respective NOCs agreed that the Games in 1987 will be held in Monaco and those in 1989 in Cyprus.

MEDITERRANEAN GAMES

In my capacity as President of the Technical Commission of the Mediterranean Games, I have visited the cities of Lattakia and Damascus on several occasions. The Organizing Committee received indispensable technical support. The Mediterranean Games will be held in Lattakia from 11th to 25th September 1987 in eighteen sports disciplines.

It should be mentioned here that through the tremendous support of the Syrian Government and sports organizations, an outstanding sport centre with all the necessary facilities is under construction at Lattakia beach for the Mediterranean Games.

VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

16th to 23rd July

On the invitation of the All China Sport Committee and the Chinese NOC, this visit was sched-

uled with the aim of discussing the preparation of the 8th Asian Games, to be held in Beijing from 15th to 30th September 1990, with major Chinese sport officials.

Based on the regulations of the Games, China has proposed a programme containing 23 sports. Discussions with leaders of the All China Sport Committee and the Chinese NOC focussed primarily on the planning of venues, the organization of sport and the organization of the Games, in general. A great deal of attention was given to analysis of the adaptation and eventual construction of sport facilities. This was considered by taking the immediate needs for the 1990 Asian Games into account with an eye to an eventual candidature for one of the upcoming Olympic Games.

During this visit, a two-day seminar was held with top planners of Chinese sport. This seminar was attended by fifty people representing the following branches : planning, equipment, financial matters, promotion, press, radio, television, personnel, the municipal planning bureau, the Beij-

ing Institute of Architectural Design, the Qinghua University Architecture department and members of the Preparatory Committee for the 1990 Asian Games. The following items were on the agenda :

- a) Method of the organization of the Games and development of plans ;
- b) Preparation of the venues and competition zones ;
- c) Operation of the Games - Main Operational Centre - Main Communications Centre.

At the end of this review, it should be reiterated that the main factor with which the candidate cities and the actual organizers of the Games are concerned is the following : a logical and rational overall areal plan of the adaptation of existing and construction of new sport facilities, strictly oriented towards the normal future needs of human urban agglomerations.

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