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## National Committees

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### AUSTRALIA

The 22nd of November, the same date on which the Games of the XVIth Olympiad were opened thirty years before, was a day of double celebration for the Australian Olympic Federation.

It began with the opening by the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Robert Hawke, of the new Gallery of Sport, a multi-level museum located at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, site of the 1956 Opening Ceremonies. Thousands of invited guests attended the event presided over by Mr. Kevan Gosper, member of the IOC Executive Board and president of the AOF, who was accompanied by Mr. Phillip Coles, also an IOC member in Australia and the AOF secretary general. The Gallery's first exhibition, entitled "Olympic Spirit", features a comprehensive history of the Olympic Games and of Australia's uninterrupted participation since the modern ones began. Other museums, newspapers, television companies and individuals, many of them former Australian Olympic gold medallists, provided materials for display including videotapes, films and photographs.

In the evening, nine hundred guests were ushered into a festive marquis set up on the grass of the arena for a spectacular dinner after first witnessing the re-enactment of the lighting of the Olympic flame in a new, specially made cauldron, by Marcus Clarke, son of Ron Clarke, who

performed the task in 1956. Australia's former world record-holding middle distance runner, John Landy, also repeated the Olympic Oath as he did in almost the same spot thirty years earlier.

The dinner, hosted by the very active Australian Olympians Club featured guest appearances by four-time 1948 Olympic gold medallist sprinter Fanny Blankers-Koen (HOL), 1956 1500 metre gold medallist Ron Delany (IRL), 1956 decathlon winner Milt Campbell (USA) and a string of Australian gold medallists including John Konrads (swimming, 1960), Herb Elliott (track, 1960) and Murray Rose (swimming, 1956). Many of those who had taken part in the Melbourne Games took turns recounting tales of their exploits and sharing their fondest memories.

The principal speakers were the AOF president, Mr. Gosper, and the Australian Federal Sports Minister, Mr. John Brown.



### AUSTRIA

The Austrian Olympic Committee (AOC) celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its reconstitution with a ceremony on 28th November in Vienna attended by more than 260 athletes, sports administrators and government officials, among them Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian Head of State, who addressed the gathering, and Mr. Philipp Von Schoeller, IOC member in that country. The event was covered widely by the press and on television.

As part of the celebration the NOC published a commemorative booklet on the Olympic Movement in Austria which includes a history of the Games, descriptions of the 1964 and 1976 Olympic Winter Games held in Innsbruck, an alphabetical list of Austrian medallists, information on the composition, development and activities of the AOC and many illustrations.



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In the photograph above we see Dr. Waldheim (second from right) and Mr. Kurt Heller (centre), president of the AOC, with some of Austria's greatest athletes, from l. to r. : Ernst Hinterseer (1960-gold: slalom and bronze: giant slalom), Karl Schranz (1964-silver: giant slalom), Toni Sailer (1956-gold: downhill, slalom, giant slalom), Trixi Schuba (1972-gold: women's figure skating) and Toni Innauer (1976-silver: ski jump and 1980-gold: ski jump).

□ Also during the ceremony, Mr. Von Schoeller presented the Olympic Order to Dr. Ludwig Prokop, a member of the IOC Medical Commission since 1967, former president of the International Sports Medicine Federation (FIMS) and director, since 1970, of the Austrian Institute for Sports Medicine. Once the national champion in swimming, fencing and modern pentathlon, he is a member of the NOC and served as team doctor to the Austrian Olympians for twenty years. The IOC voted to award Dr. Prokop with the Order at its 90th Session in 1985.



### BOTSWANA

Mr. Ismail Bhamjee, secretary general of the NOC, was awarded the Presidential Order of Meritorious Service on 12th December by the Botswana Head of State, Dr. Quett Ketolmile Joni Masire. The honour was given to Mr. Bhamjee in recognition of his exceptional dedication to sport in his country.



### CANADA

Mrs. Carol Anne Letheren and Mr. Jean Grenier, both vice-presidents of the Canadian Olympic Association, have been named chefs de mission for, respectively, the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad in Seoul and the XVth Olympic Winter Games, which will, of course, take place on native ground in Calgary. Mrs. Letheren brings to the task a great deal of experience as an international competitor, coach and official, particularly in gymnastics, but also in archery. She is an honorary member of the FIG. Mr. Grenier is extremely involved in speed skating at all levels: as an administrator, organizer and the father of two top competitors in the sport.



### CYPRUS

In Cyprus, the International Youth Year awards, the trophies for which were donated by the IOC,

*Mr. Von Schoeller, IOC member in Austria, presenting the Olympic Order to Dr. Prokop. Mr. Kurt Heller, NOC President, looks on.*



went to-Georgio Georghiou, a handball player, and track and field athlete Maria Dracou. They were honoured at a ceremony at the NOC headquarters, along with other athletes who had been chosen as the best young people in their sports. The latter received special diplomas in recognition of their achievements. All of the honourees are shown in the photograph with, at centre, Mr. Kikis N. Lazarides, NOC president, and Mr. Iosif Hadjosif, secretary general.

□ The Cyprus Olympic Committee has announced that it will inaugurate its National Olympic Academy in march of this year.

□ On a visit to Cyprus last summer, Mr. Nelson Paillou, president of the French NOC, co-signed a protocol with Mr. Kikis Lazarides providing for sports cooperation between the two countries.

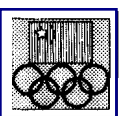
Another agreement, in this case between Cyprus and Syria, brought about exchanges in ten differensports during the course of the past year.

official competition programme while another 115 events were staged as exhibitions. In the words of Mr. Wei, " The Games embodied the unity of the various nationalities of our country and the popularity of sports activities among its people".

At the opening ceremony of the Games, Mr. Zhenliang He, member of the IOC Executive Board, presented the beautiful trophy of the IOC marking the Year of Peace, 1986, given by every NOC who wishes to the person or organization whose work in favour of peace has been most memorable, to the Organizing Committee of Urumqi.



*Goat snatching, a team game popular in Xinjiang, the object of which is to gain, by snatching, and keep possession of a goat carcass and eventually place it in one of two raised baskets located at opposite ends of the field.*



**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The Third National Games of the Traditional Sports of China's Minority Nationalities took place in the city of Urumqi, capital of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region, from 10th to 17th August 1986. Mr. Jizhong Wei, secretary general of the Chinese Olympic Committee recently wrote to us reporting that close to 1,110 athletes, representing fifty-five nationalities from twenty-nine provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, took part in the Games. Seven traditional sports — horse racing, goat snatching, Chinese style wrestling, archery, cross-bow, fire-cracker snatching and swinging — comprised the



**KOREA**

Some thirty representatives of the Korean Olympic Committee, the Ministry of Sports, the press, SLOOC and other related bodies gathered on 21st November last for a debate on the outcome of the 10th Asian Games and, in light of that experience, the preparations for the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad which will take place next year. Hosted by the NOC, the one-day forum touched on such matters as the roles of each of the organizations involved, personnel and language training.

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### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The USOC and Northeastern University's (Boston) Centre for the Study of Sport in Society have launched a programme for Olympians wishing to start or continue their college educations. Under the provisions of the programme, made possible by a grant from the United States Olympic Foundation, athletes will be able to attend classes at one of three universities while devoting a certain amount of time to acting as role models for young people. Thus, it serves two purposes: firstly, to give those Olympians who postponed their studies in order to dedicate themselves fully to training and competition the opportunity to return to school and secondly, to encourage children, many of them intent on careers in sports, to pursue their educations. The project has already proven to be successful with some professional athletes: more than fifty have returned to university and have seen over sixty thousand boys and girls, usually through visits to secondary schools.

To allow the returning students to reacclimate themselves to academic settings, "bridge courses" are to be taught at each of the three locations, for brushing up on certain study skills and learning new ones, such as computer programming.



### FRANCE

From 17th September to 17th October 1986, an unusual train of five cars travelled across France making stops in twenty-four cities, as part of a national campaign to encourage citizens to "Live Sport". A joint project of the French NOC

(CNOSF) and the State Department of Youth and Sports, the railroad caravan was manned by representatives of sixteen Olympic sports, among them pole vaulter Pierre Quinon, 1984 Olympic gold medallist, Joseph Mahmoud, winner of the Olympic silver medal in the 3,000 steeplechase at Los Angeles, Stéphane Caristan, European champion in the 110 m hurdles, Brigitte Deydier, judo world champion, swimmer Stephane Caron, second in the 100 m freestyle at the 1986 World Championships, and cyclist Jeannie Longo, 1985 and 1986 world champion in the women's road race. At each stop, the athletes conducted introductory sessions and gave demonstrations of their respective sports to the public.



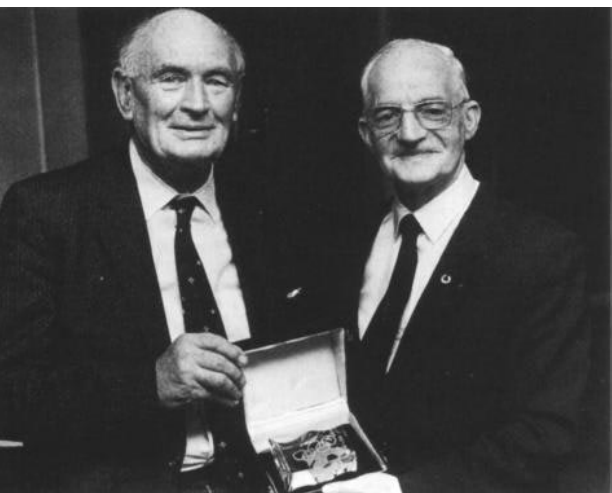
### HUNGARY

The General Assembly of the Hungaran Olympic Committee was held on 22nd September 1986. During the meeting, Mr. Cabor Deak (see biography below), the head of the newly-created State Office for Youth and Sports, was elected to the presidency of the NOC replacing Mr. Istvan Buda who retired. Additional elections were held for vice-presidents, resulting in the following composition of the Committee's Executive: *PT*: Mr. Gabor Deak; *VPTs*: Mr. Istvan Buda, Dr. Zoltan Magyar, Dr. Antal Pongracz and Mr. Tamas Tibor; *SG*: Mr. Pal Schmitt, IOC member.

□ *Mr. Gabor Deak*, 42, took on two important tasks last year when he became the president of both the Hungarian State Office for Youth and Sports and the Hungarian Olympic Committee. Educated as a business administrator at the Academy of Finance



and Public Accountancy in Budapest, he has occupied several positions within the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, first as district committee secretary and, since 1980, a member of the Central Committee. In his limited spare time, Mr. Deak enjoys playing tennis.



Messrs. Graves (at left) and O' Sullivan with the Peace Prize.

1986 was presented by NOC president Mr. Desmond O'Sullivan to the Sportsmen/Sportswomen Inter Faith Service Committee. Composed of sixteen persons, the group has been organizing interreligious services for athletes each year since 1949. The spearhead of the Committee, Mr. Bob Graves, a former president of the Irish Rugby Football Union and one of Ireland's most famous international rugby players in the 1930's, accepted the trophy on behalf of its members.

In his speech to those present — the group included representatives from the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland, the Society of Friends (Quakers), Methodists, Presbyterians and Jews — Mr. O'Sullivan quoted the late John F. Kennedy who had said that peace is *"a daily, weekly, monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures."*

Pointing out that Ireland's recent history had been sadly besmirched by acts of violence sometimes perpetrated in the name of religion, he went on to point out that some of the finest moments of national pride had come about through the goodwill and bridge-building that had been accomplished by sports and sports people.

Mr. O'Sullivan emphasised that peace is cherished by the Olympic Movement, and said that the word "peaceful" features very early in the "Olympic Charter". The Olympic Council of Ireland, he said, applauded the Inter Faith Service Committee for the work it has done in bringing sportspeople of different religious beliefs together every year at an annual service. He concluded by quoting Cicero who, all those many centuries ago, had observed: *"The name of peace is sweet and the thing itself is good"*.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Graves said that the Olympic Council of Ireland, in choosing his Committee to be the recipients of the Peace Prize, had given them *"hope, encouragement and inspiration"*. *"The International Olympic Committee"*, he said, *"has achieved wonderful things by bringing people of all creeds and colours and nationalities and ideologies together. If we could achieve even the tiniest fraction of what they and you have done, we would be very proud"*.



## IRELAND

Mr. Liam Nolan, Director General of the Olympic Council of Ireland, has kindly sent us the following information:

At a special reception hosted by the Olympic Council of Ireland on 2nd December, the special Peace Prize marking the Year of Peace

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### ICELAND

The president of the Olympic Committee of Iceland and former head of the Icelandic Sports Federation (1962-1980), Mr. Gisli Halldorsson (foreground), saw an attractive statue of himself unveiled last autumn near the sports arena in Reykjavik, the largest of its kind in the country, which he designed in 1946. A member of the NOC for nearly forty years and its president for thirteen years thus far, Mr. Halldorsson, an architect, has played a significant role in the construction of sports facilities in Iceland and the promotion of sport in general. He was awarded the Olympic Order in 1981 in recognition of his devotion and contributions to the Olympic Movement.

The Olympic Committee of Iceland, the Icelandic Sport Federation, the Reykjavik Sport Federation, the Reykjavik Football Club and the City of Reykjavik were responsible for the erection of the statue.



### ISRAEL

On 5th December, the Olympic Committee of Israel received its Philips video equipment, part of the gift to the Olympic family, in an official presentation by a representative of Philips Israel. The NOC president, Mr. Isaac Ofek expressed his thanks and emphasised the fact that the information flowing into Israel would now be visual, as well, and that this would contribute to the strengthening of the Olympic Movement. Mr. Itz-

hak Caspi, secretary general of the NOC, spoke of the new era now opened, which would help to improve the specialized know-how of Israeli sport.



*Putting the new video equipment to good use, from l. to r.: Messrs. Ofek and Caspi and Mr. Uri Afek, Director General of the NOC. At right is Mr. Ami Schreiber, Director General of Philips Israel.*



### ITALY

Olympic Day was celebrated in Italy on 31st October, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the Republic. As in other years, the day included the awarding of the "Fiaccola Azzurra" (blue - the Italian teams' colour - torch) which this time was given to the President of the IOC, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch. Mr. Samaranch went to Rome to accept the honour in person, giving extra importance to the gathering. Also in attendance was the new Minister of Sport and Special Events, Mr. Nicola Capria.

During the ceremony, some one hundred Italian athletes who had won gold medals in the Olympic Games between 1948 and 1984 received souvenir gold medals.



Messrs. de Stefani and Samaranch. On the table is the Fiaccola Azzurra trophy presented to the IOC President by the Italian NOC.

On the same occasion, the foundation of the Italian Olympic Academy was announced with a few illustrative words from Mr. Giorgio de Stefani, IOC member in Italy.

□ Government officials, sports leaders, representatives of the media and athletes took part in the "Sport Towards the Year 2000 — Regions and the Development of Sport" conference sponsored by CONI and the region of Lazio's sports department. The two-day meeting, held in Rome from 20th to 21st November, included round table discussions on "Social Growth and Sports Development" (below) and "Sport and Mass Media Today and Tomorrow".

In opening the proceedings, Mr. Franco Carraro, IOC member and president of CONI, stressed the importance of looking at the future of sport in collaboration with the Regions of Italy which, with decentralization, have taken on a more definitive role in the formulation of policies and actual operations. He spoke of how sports clubs have remained the stable point of the ever-growing movement, in spite of various obstacles they may encounter.

In closing, the Director of Sport for Lazio, Mr. Paolo Albarello outlined the conclusions of the conference in the following five points: place pressure on the Government and Parliament for the promulgation of sports legislation reforms; establish coordination among regional sports departments; arrange a meeting of regional authorities, CONI and the related parliamentary commissions to define a plan for the provision of sports facilities; publish a booklet on health for nationwide distribution; and create a school construction plan which includes multipurpose buildings.

□ The national council of the Italian NOC (CONI) met on 30th October last and held elections for a new vice-president. They voted for Mr. Primo Nebiolo, president of both the national and international (IAAF) athletics federations to replace Mr. Federico Sordillo who no longer occupies the presidency of the Italian Football Federation and is hence, according to the regulations of CONI, unable to continue as vice-president. Mr. Sordillo was, however, elected a member of the CONI Executive Board.



## KUWAIT

The new president of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, *Sheikh Ahmad Homoud Al-Sabah*, 36, has been particularly active administratively in the sport of football, having served eight years (1978-1986) as the Treasurer of the Asian Football Confederation



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(presently the Honorary Treasurer and Chairman of the Tournaments and Competition Committee), six years (1976-1982) as the Vice-President of the Kuwait Football Federation and some time as a member of the Executive Committee of the Arab Football Confederation. He was also the president of the Kuwait Fencing Federation from 1974 to 1978. In addition to his involvement in sport, Sheikh Ahmad is a colonel in the army and the administrative director of the Ministry of the Interior Bureau.



□ *Mr. Abdul Aziz Ahmad Al-Raqum*, elected NOC Secretary General last May, has been associated with the Olympic Movement in Kuwait for many years. The president of the national gymnastic federation and a member of the Executive Council of

the Asian Gymnastics Association, he has attended and, as an administrator, participated in a number of Olympic Games, Asian Games and other international competitions. He also heads the Training and Tournament Division of the Ministry of Education.



### GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The GDR has already nominated eighty-nine athletes as candidates for the XVth Olympic Winter Games in Calgary. In a special ceremony held in the city of Erfurt, Mr. Manfred Ewald, president of the NOC, distributed certificates to those selected in the presence of a number of other sports leaders, including Mr. Gunther Heinze, IOC member in the GDR. He told the athletes: *"Each of you will have an opportunity to gain a place among the world's best. Seize this opportunity! Don't aim too low! Those who want to win Olympic medals tomorrow must show selfless commitment and zeal in training today"*

□ A similar ceremony in November marked the selection of 416 athletes and 221 coaches to prepare for the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad in 1988. Addressing the candidates and trainers, Mr. Ewald emphasised the need to ensure that the Olympic Games remain a *"worldwide festival of the peaceloving sporting youth of all continents under the sign of understanding and peace"*. Among the already well-known athletes named were runner Marita Koch, cyclist Lutz Henschlich and oarsman Uwe Heppner, all Olympic champions in 1980.



### POLAND

Mr. Boleslaw Kapitan, president of the National Committee of Physical Culture and Tourism has been elected president of the Polish Olympic Committee replacing Mr. Marian Renke who has been named the Polish Ambassador to Spain. Although he has resigned from his position with the NOC, the latter remains a member of the Executive Committee and shall be continuing to serve as the Secretary General of ANOC.



### SWEDEN

Seventy-four years after he won the pentathlon and decathlon at the Games of the Vth Olympiad in Sweden, the medals for which he was later denied because he had played baseball for pay, the American athlete Jim Thorpe, who died in 1953, has been honoured with a commemorative bronze plaque bearing his name, placed beside the list of the 1912 gold medallists on a wall of the Stockholm Stadium. The marker also mentions the decision of the IOC in 1982 to return the medals to the Thorpe family and the official presentation in early 1983.



Present for the mounting of the plaque were Dr. Theo Heap of the United States Olympic Committee, Messrs. Matts Calgren and Gunnar Ericsson, IOC members in Sweden, some fifty other Swedish sports officials, and the widow, son and grandson of Hugo Wieslander, the man who became the Olympic decathlon champion upon the disqualification of Jim Thorpe. Mrs. Wieslander is shown here with Dr. Heap.



#### SYRIA

The Syrian Olympic Committee recently met in its ordinary General Assembly and held elections for members of the Executive Board. The results were as follows: *PT*: Mr. Samih Medallal (re-elected); *VPT*: Dr. Kamal Taha; *SG*: Mrs. Nour Al-Houda Karfoul (re-elected); *Ms*: Generals Daniel Chekbazoff and Walid Hamamieh.



#### TUNISIA

Members of the Tunisian Olympic Committee elected Mr. Slaheddine Baly and Mr. Moncef Halouani as their President and Secretary General, respectively, at a meeting on 31st December. Mr. Baly had occupied the post of Secretary General since 1960 while Mr. Halouani has served on the NOC Executive Board for many years.



#### USSR

For the third time in a row, pole vaulter Sergei Bubka was named Soviet athlete of the year after a survey of sports journalists in the USSR. Since 1984, the 23 year-old has made six world record-breaking vaults, the most recent being 6.01 m, the current record set last July in Moscow (URS). For several seasons, he has also dominated the event indoors, where his (and the world's) best vault to date is 5.95 m.

Other top vote-getters in the poll were football player Igor Belanov, whose team Dynamo Kiev won the European Club Championship in 1986, speed skater Igor Zhelezovski, world sprint champion in both 1985 and 1986, weightlifter Yuri Zakharevitch, the two-time world champion (1985 and 1986) who has set twenty-four world records in his career thus far, and the reigning chess world champion Gary Kasparov.

