



## INVITATIONS, TALKS AND TENNIS

The date of the next Games is approaching and the Olympic meetings of all kinds are becoming more frequent. The Executive Board's first meeting of the year was held from 11th to 13th February 1987, the date of the meeting with the International Winter Sports Federations. The dispatch of the invitations for the XVth Winter Games and a meeting with the delegation from the NOC of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave the meeting its international dimension, whilst the Board's reaction to the report by the Eligibility Commission concerning tennis was being awaited eagerly by the entire world of sport. A meeting of importance, therefore.

---

## CALGARY AWAITS US

An unprecedented event marked this meeting of the Executive Board, one year to the day before the opening of the XVth Winter Games in Calgary: the official dispatch of Invitations to all National Olympic Committees. This procedure is no longer carried out, as in the past, by the Organising Committee, but is the prerogative of the IOC, since a decision to that effect taken in 1984.

**"G**ood Morning Canada, Good Morning Calgary!" With these words, President Samaranch greeted the hosts of the XVth Winter Games from the Olympic House in Lausanne where the invitations to that event were signed and sent in a solemn ceremony on 13th February, exactly one year before the opening day.

"On behalf of those gathered here in Lausanne", he told them, "I extend greetings to Mayor Klein and to all the citizens of Calgary, which has just been linked with us by satellite, as it will be during the Games in 1988. We appreciate the tremendous support given by all Calgariens for the staging of the Olympic Winter Games".

"Today, via our official TOP sponsor Federal Express, the International Olympic Committee is forwarding an invitation to all National Olympic Committees to participate in the XVth Olympic Winter Games".

"We are convinced that the anniversary of this date will mark the opening of great Olympic Winter Games and very much look forward to joining you in Calgary on this occasion, together with athletes and spectators from all over the world".

By now, all of the NOCs should have received their invitations and they must notify the IOC of their intention to take part in the Winter Games by 13th June. Within only a few days, positive responses had already begun to come in from the European Committees, with Switzerland and France being the first.

In Lausanne for the occasion, as well as for the meeting of the IOC Executive Board at which they gave a progress report, Messrs. Frank King and Bill Pratt, President and General Manager, respectively, of OCO'88, sat on either side of the IOC President during the ceremony. Mr. King also had a few words to say to the Canadian audi-



ence, for whom it was early morning, remarking on the preparations for the fast-approaching event and the keenness of the people of Calgary to welcome it in just one year's time.

## THE TOP PLAYERS IN TENNIS SOON TO BE OLYMPIC MEDALLISTS?

The IOC Executive Board accepted unanimously the recommendations of the Eligibility Commission concerning the modalities of participation in the next Games for tennis players, the only sport on the programme for Seoul for which the problem still remained unresolved. The recommendations will therefore be submitted to the IOC members for approval at their 92nd Session in Istanbul in May 1987. The terms of the report had been finalised the previous day by the Eligibility Commission under the chairmanship of Mr. Willi Daume, IOC member in the Federal Republic of Germany, with representatives of the International Tennis Federation led by its President Mr. Philippe Chatrier. The resulting rules are of a provisional nature and will be applied only to the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad. The IOC and the ITF have stressed all along the experimental nature of the arrangement.

Participants in the tournament will be proposed by the national federations to the National Committees, which alone have the authority to constitute the delegations of athletes to take part

in the Games. The players (a maximum of three men and three women) joining the Olympic delegation, will be bound to comply with the rules established by the NOC concerning uniform, travel and accommodation in the athletes' village. Naturally, the "Olympic Charter" will apply to the tennis players as to other athletes, in particular as regards advertising on clothes and equipment, nationality and the earnings ban. Any contract to which the player is a party and which contradicts the IOC's rules will be suspended for the duration of the Games and a period of up to 14 days beforehand as deemed necessary by the NOC for preparation and travel purposes. Players will not be able to take part in a match in Korea for the two weeks before and the two weeks after the Games. "Thus, as Mr. Raymond Gañer, IOC Administrateur délégué, explained the tennis players will be subject to the common rules during the Olympic Games". As for other sports, it is up to the International Federation to define the technical conditions of qualification. The ITF has already defined as a condition willingness on the part of a potential Olympic participant to take part in the official Federation events such as the Davis Cup and the Federation Cup. The total number of singles players, fixed at sixty-four for men and thirty-two for women, plus any doubles teams not made up of those players, will mean that a considerable number of the world's tennis elite will be able to participate in Seoul.

### **KOREAN NOCs: TOWARDS A FOURTH MEETING**

The meeting between the Executive Board and the delegation from the NOC of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (PRK) was also being anticipated as an event of international import. Scheduled for 11th February on the initiative of the IOC, it was deferred for twenty-four hours at the request of the Koreans, who wished for time to reflect. It may be useful to recall that the object of the meeting was the NOC's reply to the proposals formulated in 1986 by the IOC in order to facilitate participation by the PRK in the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988. The NOCs of the two Koreas have already met three times: on 8th and 9th October 1986, 8th and 9th January 1986 and 11th and 12th June 1986, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch. These discussions made it possible, by agreement with the NOC of the Republic of Korea, to



propose the staging in Pyongyang (PRK) of two sports, archery and table tennis, plus certain cycling events and preliminary rounds in football, with all that implies in terms of accommodation, etc. for athletes, federation officials and media representatives. On the occasion of its 91st Session in Lausanne last October, the IOC announced that the negotiations could not go any further in the direction of compromise. It was therefore in order to receive its reply that the Executive Board was to meet the NOC of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The delegation, led by Mr. Yu Sun Kim, IOC member and President of the NOC, comprised Messrs. Chung Guk Chin, NOC Vice-President, Un Chang, Secretary General of the NOC and Dok Gil Kim, Secretary (see photo).

Following the two-hour long meeting, attended by Mr. Samuel Pissar, international lawyer and IOC Adviser, and Mr. Alexandru Sipserco, IOC member in Rumania and presidential delegate for the NOCs, the IOC President was able to make a statement approved by the parties to the meeting, announcing that there was agreement in principle and that a fourth tripartite meeting would be held in Lausanne before the summer to settle questions of detail.

---

## THE PRESIDENT'S DECLARATION

*"On behalf of the IOC Executive Board, I am very happy to note the willingness of the Olympic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate. We have taken note of its acceptance in principle of our proposal as it was expressed in our letter of 11th June 1986. Within this framework, and with a view to bringing about progress in the detailed arrangements, I have informed the North Korean delegation of the IOC's intention to convene a fourth meeting in Lausanne between the two Koreas, under the chairmanship of the IOC".*

President Kim thanked the IOC Executive Board and expressed appreciation of its efforts to resolve the problem. He welcomed the opportunity provided by a fourth meeting to sit down and discuss the various matters still pending. President Samaranch concluded by saying that the agenda for the fourth meeting should be prepared at once and that adjustments were always possible during the meeting. As the date of the Games approach, technical imperatives render the conclusion of a definitive agreement in the very near future a matter of necessity.



## WINTER SPORTS FEDERATIONS AT OLYMPIC HOUSE

Messrs. Philip Lawson (ICF) Jan A. Edvinsson (IIHF) and Willi Grut (UIPMB) were given an exclusive preview of the layout of Olympnet at the last meeting of the Executive Commission with the International Federations of Winter Sports and they are studying it with interest.

Olympnet will enable the Olympic family to consult sporting information distributed regularly by the IOC by means of IBM PC micro computers. It was the first time that the Winter Sports Federations had met at Olympic House and to mark the occasion presidents and general secretaries posed under the portico they had given to the IOC in the company of Mr. Walther Tröger, IOC Sport Director (on the left).



### ATHLETES - AN ACTIVE PRESENCE

The Board's remaining decisions concern the proposals submitted by the Athletes at the first joint meeting with the Executive Board last December. In order to ensure a better geographical representation within the Athlete's Commission, the Chinese (CHN) gymnast Li Ning, gold medallist at the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad, has been appointed a member. Moreover, the athletes have obtained the right to representation in a number of IOC Commissions. Thus, Michelle Ford (AUS) will join the Commission for the International Olympic Academy, Sebastian Coe (GBR), the Medical Commission, Thomas Bach (FRG), the Press Commission and Daniele Masala (ITA), the Television Commission. Ken Read (CAN) will be the spokesman for the athletes within the Cultural Commission.

The Executive Board also took the decision to send the revised draft of the "Olympic Charter" to all the IOC members for their comments, to be submitted before the end of August 1987; the final version of Olympism's most fundamental text is to be submitted for adoption on the occasion of the XIth Olympic Congress in Tokyo in 1990.

Two Vice-Presidents have been entrusted with task of a precise nature. Mr. Berthold Beitz has been appointed Chairman of the Olympic Museum Foundation, which is to raise funds for the future Olympic Museum, the construction of which is to begin in the spring at Ouchy on the shores of Lake Geneva, according to plans by Mr. Pedro Ramírez Vázquez, IOC member in Mexico. Prince Alexandre de Merode was entrusted for his part with the coordination of the various events to be organised to mark the IOC's centenary in 1994.

The appeal launched by the Board last year has not fallen on deaf ears: five cities have expressed interest in hosting the IOC's 97th Session in 1991. They are Belgrade (YUG), Budapest (HUN), Monte-Carlo (MON), Moscow (URS) and Nairobi (KEN). Finally, at the request of the Syrian organisers, the Board granted the IOC's patronage to the Mediterranean Games, to be held in Latakia (SYR) in September of this year.