

DECISIONS OF THE 93rd IOC SESSION

The search for new ways to combat doping and a study of the final points concerning the order of the Games in Calgary and Seoul were the main points of this 93rd IOC Session which took place in the conference hall of the Calgary Convention Center.

Seventy-seven members took part in the meetings of the Session which got under way after tribute was paid to the recently deceased members Sheik Gemayel, member in Lebanon, and Constantin Andrianov, member in the Soviet Union. Ten members sent their apologies, and the members who had taken the oath the previous afternoon were officially presented to their colleagues.

Abolition of Rule 28

The Committee decided unanimously to remove Rule 28 from the "Olympic Charter" which made participation by women subject to the approval of the International Sports Federations and the IOC itself. As the "Charter" does not contain any similar clause for men, Rule 28 had become anachronistic and could have been regarded as discriminatory.

Doping : indictments

The IOC's resolve to step up the fight against doping was made clear by the Medical Commis-

sion which proposed some extremely firm resolutions. Prince Alexandre de Merode, the President of the IOC Medical Commission, demanded that sanctions be taken "to make an example" of those who provide and traffic doping substances. The IOC Juridical Commission is working on texts leading to the application of sanctions which could extend to any doctor or official involved in a doping case being struck off for life.

Prince Alexandre de Merode revealed that new methods to allow rapid tracing of currently undetectable doping products, particularly the hormone HCG which speeds up the production of testosterone, and corticosteroid, an anabolic product, will probably be used in Seoul after having been tried out in Calgary. There has also been progress regarding the practice of illicit blood transfusions, known as "blood packing". As far as medical care of athletes is concerned, no laxity can be tolerated, but the choice of medicaments is still highly varied since forbidden products represent only 5% of products currently on the market. Generally speaking, the gap between the discovery of new products and the means of detecting them is narrowing.

President Samaranch stressed the need for an agreement between the IFs leading to their adopting a stricter policy towards athletes convicted of doping, and he hoped that a single list of prohibited substances identical to that drawn up by the IOC could soon be respected by all the Federations.

All the NOCs at Seoul

The positive response from 161 NOCs who accepted the invitation to the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad does not prevent the IOC from hoping to see all the NOCs there. Several actions are planned in this area. Contacts are continuing with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a letter will be sent to President Fidel Castro of Cuba, and during a protocol visit the President is to meet the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev.

After listening to the reports from the commissions, the members of the IOC approved the reports and heard accounts of the progress in preparation for Seoul, Albertville and Barcelona. The salient points of these reports are outlined in the following pages.