

## VOLUNTEERS PROUD AND READY TO HELP

After the great support given by the 10,000 volunteers in Calgary, what about Seoul? The city of the Games of the Olympiad, which is putting the final touches to its preparations, has a team of nearly 80,000 people at the ready, of which close on 30,000 are volunteer workers. Specially trained for the occasion, they will be assigned to their places ready to become little cogs in the big Olympic wheel.

**W**hen the world comes to Seoul next September there will be one enthusiastic Olympic team of more than 77,000 members waiting to greet them.

The Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee's workforce will include its regular staff of 1,300, nearly 17,000 government support personnel and thousands more representing service companies involved with the Games.

But, like at every modern Olympics, the backbone of the team — and the personification of the Olympic Spirit — will be the volunteers. And in Seoul, the thousands of Koreans, from excited youngsters to those proudly retired, are already in training for their very special Olympic role.



SLOOC will have 26,710 volunteer workers at its disposal. In addition, most of the 19,000 youngsters who will join performances including the opening and closing ceremonies, will be enrolled amateurs thrilled at the prospect of performing for audiences in Seoul and millions more watching around the globe.

The volunteers were selected from close to 120,000 who put their names forward in a six-week recruitment period back in late 1985. After rigorous interviews and written tests, 17,411 of those volunteers were selected to work on the Asian Games in Seoul in 1986. Many of them will draw on their experience during the Asiad when they form part of the 26,000 volunteer squad for the Olympic Games.

Mr. Lee Myoung-kyu, a section chief in SLOOC's Human Resources Department, said: "We were overwhelmed by the number of people who originally came forward. Those who were not selected were very disappointed because they all wanted very much to be involved with both the Asian Games and the Olympics."

Two volunteers who will be back in action for the Olympics will be 71-year-old Kwon Hee-chang and his 68-year-old wife who worked as guides at the table tennis venue during the Asiad. The two oldest volunteers will probably have similar duties during the Olympics and say they are very proud to be involved.

Some 13,525 of the volunteers will be assigned to competition venues where their duties will vary from ballboys to guides to serving



refreshments. A further 10,105 will be at other Games-related sites like the Athletes and Press Villages, the Main Press Center and the International Broadcasting Center; their work at these various sites will run from bed-making in the athletes' apartments to interpreting in the villages and MPC. The remaining 3,080 volunteers will be assigned administrative duties to provide clerical support for SLOOC.

The volunteer corps includes some 5,000 Koreans fluent in foreign languages who will form the bulk of the language service staff. They were selected after strict testing and written examinations. Other language volunteers include Koreans living overseas who are paying their own way and their own expenses while in Seoul to contribute to the Games effort.

Training and orientation for volunteers of all kinds also began last year with a series of large-scale meetings in the Olympic Park.

Between February and April this year they will get specialist training in the departments at the venues to which they will be assigned. From April to September there will be on the job training schedules and simulated training exercises.

The volunteers will work basic eight-hour shifts and will get allowances for travel and meals. But it's likely that, as was the case during the Asian Games, many of the volunteers will be eager to carry on working rather than call it a day when their shift ends.



*Guides, interpreters, medical staff, a group of volunteers specially trained to meet the demands of the Games.*