

THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE SPANISH NOC DIES IN A SKIING ACCIDENT



Prince **Alfonso de Borbón**, Duke of Cadiz, cousin of King Juan Carlos and former Spanish ambassador to Sweden, died on 30th January in a tragic skiing accident on the downhill course at Beaver Creek. He was almost 53. A keen sportsman, several times university ski champion, Prince Alfonso had been President of the Spanish Ski Federation. He was also a member of the FIS Council, and it was in this capacity that he was in Vail, Colorado (USA), for the World Downhill Ski Championships. Accompanied by two former Olympic champions, Tony Sailer and Bernhard Russi, he was trying out the men's downhill course which was closed to the public for final preparations to be made ready for training runs to start on the following day. The prince was approaching the bottom of the course at high speed and, no doubt suddenly blinded by the late afternoon sun, he skied into the cables used to fasten the banner marking the finishing line of the course. This banner, in a different position from the one marking the finish of the combined slalom course, was still being erected.

Spain has lost a great sportsman and the sadness and dismay felt within the whole sporting world was immediately evident in Vail. Several official ceremonies were cancelled and flags were lowered to half mast at the site where the championships were taking place. The IOC President emphasized the qualities of the man who until recently had been head of the Spanish NOC and who had devoted his whole life to sport.

ONDREJ NEPELA

Former Czechoslovak figure skating champion, gold medallist at the XIth Winter Games in Sapporo in 1972, and three times world champion in 1971, 1972 and 1973, **Ondrej Nepela** died of cancer on 2nd February at the age of 38. Nepela was also European champion five times between 1969 and 1973. Since 1986 he had been living in the Federal Republic of Germany, training the German skater Claudia Leistner who herself won the European title in Birmingham (GBR) a few weeks ago, following her sixth place in Calgary last year.

Ondrej Nepela, gold medalist in Sapporo in figure skating.



JEAN CUIGNARD

Head of the IOC audio-visual department, **Jean Cuignard** (SUI) died suddenly on 6th February 1989 at the age of 53. Jean Guignard joined the Olympic Museum in April 1984 after many years as head of Radio-Television in Wabern, and in only a few years accomplished an immense amount of work in a rapidly expanding sector where everything had to be created from scratch under difficult conditions. Thanks to his technical competence, inven-



tiveness and untiring willingness to help, the IOC now possesses a remarkable collection of documents amassed largely through his efforts and which forms one of the key elements in relations between the IOC and the Olympic family and thence also with the world of sport and the media.

After a serious illness in 1987 which necessitated a three month period of convalescence, Jean Guignard resumed work with an enthusiasm, optimism and commitment which won the admiration of us all. He even agreed to continue in his position as a staff representative, and we gratefully remember the kindly speech he gave on 21st December last year at the end-of-year reception for the IOC Secretariat.

His death means for us the loss of a much-valued colleague, and a true, loyal, faithful and clear-sighted friend.

R. G.

PHILIP KRUMM

President of the USA NOC from 1973 to 1977, **Philip Krumm** died on 16th October last at his home in Colorado. He received the Olympic Order in 1987 for his dedicated work for the Olympic Movement and had served on the IOC's Tripartite and Solidarity Commissions and on the board of PASO.

Founder and first President of the United States International Speed-skating Association, he was elected to the USOC's board of directors in 1961. He was actively identified with the sport of speed-skating as a competitor, official and executive. During his term as NOC President, he set up a US athletes' advisory board, headed by the four gold medallists Jesse Owens, Donald Schollander, William Toomey and Tenley Albright "to promote a better understanding for our most important constituency, the athletes". He continued to attend regularly meetings of the more recently established executive board after his term as NOC President and was chef de mission for the US Winter Olympic team in Sarajevo in 1984. Just a few days before he died, Mr. Krumm was honoured at the annual banquet of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce for his role in bringing the USOC headquarters to Colorado Springs in 1978.

□ Former USOC Secretary General, Lt. Gen. **Henry W. Buse Jr.** died three days later on 19th October. A special assistant to two NOC Presidents, he was awarded the USOC's Olympic Shield Award upon his retirement from the committee. He had joined the USOC board in 1959 to represent the US Marine Corps. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he served in the marines until his retirement.