

HELLO FROM VIDY

At the end of April, the IOC Executive Board will be holding, first alone and then with the Organizing Committee of the Games in Barcelona, a series of meetings at which there will certainly be decisions made that are of lasting importance to the whole Olympic family.

It is thus likely that the media will find ample material for their task since, naturally enough, they are interested primarily in news which will attract the public's attention. The May 1989 issue of the *Olympic Review* will, of course, also be giving an account of these events.

These more spectacular happenings in the Olympic world must not, however, overshadow the untiring endeavours performed daily by the main body of the Olympic family as they seek to spread to our contemporaries the message bequeathed by Pierre de Coubertin.

By way of illustration, I should like to mention two developments, both recent and both significant.

The first of these relates to the creation of an ever-increasing number of National Olympic Academies.

Of course the Olympic Movement is undeniably proud to have, at Olympia, an International Academy of world-wide renown and which contributes to the spread of Olympic history and philosophy. But what is new is the creation over the last few years of numerous Olympic academies at a national level, which pursue goals similar to those of their "mother academy" at Olympia, but which operate only within the territory of their NOC and succeed in reaching large sections of the population. These Academies are the subject of a recent IOC publication entitled "National Olympic Academy: Foundation, Perspectives, Activities".

Such a development is to be welcomed, since it responds to that need for harmony between sport and culture which

is at the heart of Coubertin's thinking. We must hope that this enthusiasm endures and that the number of national Olympic academies continues to grow.

The second development, of a similar kind, but of a far greater scope since it opens up Olympism to the public at large, is the creation of national Olympic museums.

Of course the Olympic Museum and Studies Centre is already taking shape on the Quai d'Ouchy in Lausanne. The *Olympic Review* will be reporting on the main construction phases of this prestigious undertaking, due to be inaugurated in 1993, and which will serve as the culmination of the first one hundred years of modern Olympism. But, following its example, plans are being drawn up for dozens of national Olympic museums which, by the end of the century, will join the existing museums devoted to Olympism and sport, the majority of which are presently being expanded and modernized.

All this burgeoning enthusiasm will find its expression in June 1989 in Lausanne, at the Second World Meeting of Sports Museum Directors. This occasion will bring together 113 leading figures responsible, in various capacities, for their national Olympic museums and representing 44 NOCs from all five continents, under the chairmanship of Mr. Jean-Francois Pahud, Director of the provisional Olympic Museum opened by the IOC in Lausanne in 1982. This meeting is planned to coincide with the publication in the near future of a brochure on how to go about setting up a sports museum.

In all this we have still further proof of the immense vitality of the Olympic Movement which, with the impetus of its recent successes and with the means to ensure the presence at the Olympic Games of the world's finest athletes, seeks to use the past and the present to build for the future.

What future? The answer lies, at least to some degree, in our hands.

By Raymond Gafner

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