

# FLYING LABORATORY OPERATIONAL SOON



*The IOC Executive Board at a working meeting in Olympic House in Lausanne. In the foreground, left, Mr Robert Helmick, IOC member in the USA, who was making his first appearance since his election to the board last September in Puerto Rico.*

The IOC Executive Board met in Lausanne from 6th to 8th December for its fourth and last meeting of 1989, during which it gave the final go-ahead for the creation of a flying laboratory for drug testing, and heard reports from the Organizing Committees of the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Albertville and Lillehammer.

**T**he IOC Medical Commission, chaired by IOC Vice-President Prince Alexandre de Merode, received the mandate from the Executive Board to plan out the operational specifications of the flying anti-doping laboratory, the creation of which had been agreed in principle by the Executive Board in Barcelona last April, and approved by the 95th IOC Session in Puerto Rico. These specifications, which will be drawn up by the Prince de Merode

and the IOC legal advisers, should in six months' time have received the approval of the Executive Board and written acceptance by each of the International Olympic Federations. This decision will intensify the war the IOC is waging against doping. During the press conference he gave after the three days of meetings, President Samaranch declared that "these anti-doping measures, and those taken by other sports organizations and government bodies,

could have an impact on the results of the competitions in Barcelona." The laboratory, explained the Prince de Merode, should be operational by the middle or end of 1990.

## PROGRAMME

After definitively approving the holding, in Barcelona, of one team event in archery, but rejecting a team event in rhythmic gymnastics, the Executive Board decided to ask the Programme Commission to undertake a detailed study on the sports which feature on the programme of the Games, so that concrete measures to "lighten the load" might then be put to the Board. With this in mind, the Executive Board preferred not to accept golf and women's softball as exhibition sports at the 1992 Games. The President pointed out that there would already be 28 sports represented at Barcelona. The IOC therefore considered that "that was enough", particularly since this list already included three demonstration sports, namely Basque pelota, taekwondo and rink hockey. Moreover, it is difficult to incorporate this notion of exhibition sports, which does not appear anywhere in the Olympic Charter, and in addition, golf has no representative organization recognized by the IOC. Mr José Miguel Abad, Chief Executive Officer of COOB'92, who headed the Barcelona delegation in Lausanne to present its report to the Board, expressed his disappointment, but the congratulations which greeted his complete report cheered him up considerably. Indeed, on three occasions President

Samaranch praised the efforts of COOB'92 during a meeting which lasted no less than two hours. Identifying problems, explained Mr Abad, was the first step to take towards resolving them. The closeness of the relationship between the IOC and COOB'92, which should develop still more during the next two years, is an asset which enables numerous difficulties to be ironed out. As far as the equine fever is concerned, the IOC will not take any decision concerning a possible alternative venue for the equestrian events until November next year, leaving it up to the International Equestrian Federation which will have given its opinion by that date.



*left, the delegation of the COOB'92 gives its report to the Executive Board, followed by that of Lillehammer (above).*

## NEW PRESIDENT FOR LILLEHAMMER

The Organizing Committee of the XVII Olympic-Winter Games recently undertook changes amongst its top personnel following the resignation of Mr Ole Sjetne, and the delegation which presented itself to the Executive Board in Lausanne was headed by Mr Gerhard Heiberg, the new LOOC President. Mr Heiberg listed a number of changes of sites and facilities, which should succeed in holding down costs which had shown an alarming increase. The budget originally planned has indeed had to be revised upwards.





**Mr Gerhard Heiberg, the new president of the organizing committee of the XVII Winter Games in Lillehammer.**

The Board totally understood the reasons for these changes which must, nonetheless, be agreed to by the International Federations of the sports concerned. The Board members will be able to see the proposed new configuration for themselves at their meeting with the International Winter Sports Federations which will take place in Lillehammer in December this year.

Aside from this, the Executive Board confirmed the holding of freestyle skiing and short-track speed skating competitions in 1994.

### **ATHLETES AT VIDY**

The board decided to accept one of the proposals of the athletes. The Athletes'

Commission, which had met several days before, put forward, as it does every year, several recommendations, amongst which was that of making seating space available for athletes and officials after the entry of the delegations at the opening and closing ceremonies. The Executive Board decided that this should happen from 1996 onwards.

In the photo, from l. to r. : Messrs Walther Troger, Li Ning, Philippe Riboud, Vladislav Tretyak, Kipjoge Keino, H.S.H Prince Albert of Monaco, Miss Anita DeFrantz, Messrs Ken Read, Edwin Moses, Peter Tallberg, Peter Montgomery, Thomas Gustafson and Luis Alvarez Cervera.

