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| 1990 | APRIL | |
| BELGRADE | 24th-26th | IOC Executive Board (I) |
| | 27th | Executive Board with the ASOIF |
| | JUNE | |
| BARCELONA | 4th | 20th meeting of the ANOC board |
| | 5th-7th | IOC Executive Board (II) |
| | 6th-7th | ANOC General Assembly |
| | 8th | Meeting of the IOC Executive Board with the NOCs |
| | 23rd | Olympic Day |
| | AUGUST | |
| MADAGASCAR | 24th-2nd Sept. | 3rd Games of the Indian Ocean |
| | SEPTEMBER | |
| TOKYO | 14th-16th | IOC Executive Board (III) |
| | 16th-19th | 96th IOC Session |
| | 20th | Commission for the Olympic Movement |
| BEIJING | 22nd-7th Oct | 11th Asian Games |
| | NOVEMBER | |
| MONTE CARLO | 24th | GAISF Congress |
| | DECEMBER | |
| LILLEHAMMER | 9th-11th | IOC Executive Board (IV) |
| | 12th | Executive Board with the International Winter Sports Federations |
| 1991 | APRIL | |
| LAUSANNE | | IOC Executive Board (I) |
| | | Executive Board with the ASOIF |
| This calendar is provisional. | | |

For once this title must be understood in its widest sense. My Hello is in fact written with the furthest point of a pen so long that, leaving Vidy and passing through the centre of our planet, it re-appears at the Antipodes, that is to say in New Zealand, where it is midnight when it is still only noon on the shores of Lake Geneva.

They say that travel broadens the minds of the young. In this sense, at least, youth is eternal. Here I am in a land bursting with greenery, dormant volcanoes, countless inlets and millions of sheep grazing in near-freedom, and it is here, I discover, that my last Hello could have been written, as this is truly a kingdom of volunteers.

The 14th Commonwealth Games, which will be starting in a few hours, are the most spectacular demonstration of this. To take but the example of security, there are around 700 people recruited in a highly original fashion from all sections of society. To be sure, the "strong-arm" security is the task of a core of seasoned professionals equipped with the necessary means, but who are, as it were, kept in reserve in the background. For the rest, the ground is covered by volunteers who look after "friendly security", chosen not from among zealous specialist officials who are quickly out of their depth, but from among people, irrespective of their professional training, who are recognized as being quick-thinking and possessing courteous common sense, flexibility and decisiveness. Such people, whose civility is tried and tested, are entrusted with looking after permanent relations with the accredited guests, particularly in such delicate areas as traffic, competition venue access, contact between the media, the athletes and their entourage, information, communications and transport. Quite obviously, it will be highly interesting to watch this formula being put into practice.

It goes without saying that such volunteers do not come about by chance. To succeed, this training must be able to draw on a vast and sound tradition of volunteer

HELLO FROM VIDY

work on a national level. I was able to see this for myself during a brief stay at Wanganui, a town located mid-way between Auckland and Wellington, the capital of New Zealand. It is a community of some 45,000 inhabitants which possesses the most dense and varied network of open-air and indoor sports facilities that I have ever seen in such a small area.

So where are they all recruited from, the thousands of administrators, monitors, staff of all kinds, the coaches and trainers needed to organize and run such a complex? Apart from some paid specialists, they are all volunteers from every section of the population, and, in particular, parents of young people who practise an individual or team sport. Many of these parents are, moreover, past or present athletes themselves, possessing to a very high degree what can accurately be called a sense of civic responsibility. And thus it is that amongst these people, we see developing what could become one of the positive options in a world which is seeking new horizons and watching them open progressively before it. By this I mean a society of individuals trained to fight for life, fiercely jealous of their independence, but at the same time prepared, whatever their profession, to take on voluntarily and without ostracism responsibilities towards those around them. This is precisely the character of the "Homo Olympicus" of whom Pierre de Coubertin dreamed, and whom he sought to create with the aid of sports practice as he conceived it.

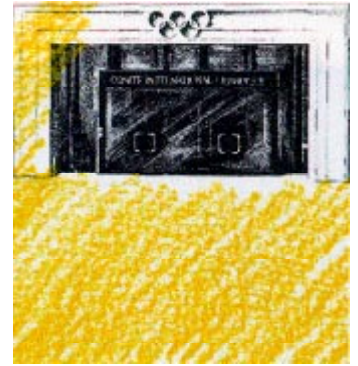
Are we playing a puerile game by looking in so great a measure to the reality of today in an attempt to give new brightness, a modern look to a utopia soon to be a century old?

I find the answer in this same town of Wanganui, whose authorities and inhabitants devised the project, drew up the plans and established the foundations of what could in the near future become a "Pierre de Coubertin institute".

If it receives approval from the descendants of the de Coubertin family, this

institute, modest in size but with vast ambitions, will have the goal of spreading as widely as possible the complete life's work of the man who will without doubt go down as one of the outstanding figures of our century.

Is it not striking to see such an initiative develop in a part of our world which geographical constraints have until now - with the exception of some major centres - kept more or less beyond the message of the man who was a humanist of such distinction? Would that mean that the Olympic torch could be on the point of passing into bolder hands? For Olympians everywhere, the challenge is considerable.



By Raymond Gafner

Editor-in-Chief