

# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS THE WINTER FEDERATIONS IN LILLEHAMMER



*Mrs Flor Isava Fonseca (left), elected last September along with Mr Marc Hodler, took up her place on the Executive Board at its meeting in Lillehammer from 6th to 8th December.*

For its last meeting of the year, the IOC Executive Board had arranged a rendezvous with the six Olympic Winter Federations in Lillehammer, the site of the XVII Winter Games, which will take place between 12th and 27th February 1994.

**T**he warm simplicity of the welcome by Lillehammer and the whole of the Norwegian population, represented by Crown Prince Harald, honorary president of the Organizing Committee, and his wife Princess Sonia, who heads the Cultural Festival Organizing Committee, confirmed to all the sports leaders at this 42nd meeting between the Executive Board and the Association of International Winter Sports Federations that the white Olympiad had found its natural home in this "winter land" of Norway. And as Mr Gerhard Heiberg, President and Executive Director of LOOC, said in his welcome address, repeating what his "predecessor" Mr O. Ditlev Simonsen, the

head of the organizing committee of the 1952 Winter Games in Oslo, had said before: "The importance of such an encounter cannot be overestimated". Starting with King Olav, Olympic Yachting champion in 1956, the whole country believes in the Olympic ideal. And it was this that the Crown Prince emphasized in a very informal speech in which he hailed both the new snow falling outside and the fact that a large number of volunteers were already prepared to start working for the Games.

For the rest, that is to say the preparations for the Games themselves, we are

publishing in the following pages a detailed description of the venues as they are now planned. But we must just mention that the opening ceremony will take place above Lillehammer at the foot of one of the ski jumps, in an imposing wooded setting.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

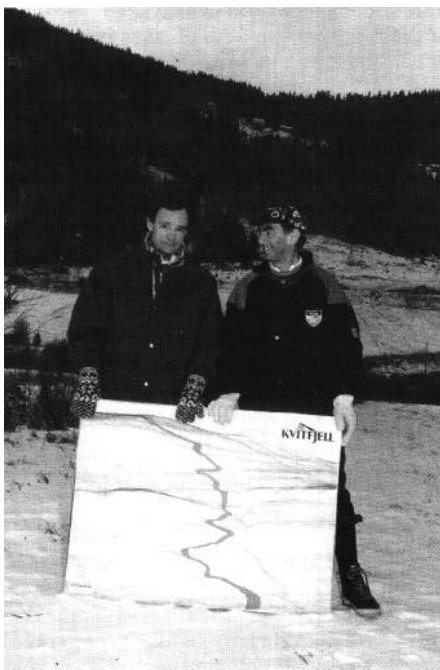
It was thus with a winter sports emphasis that these two meetings took place. Before starting on the agenda, the IOC President welcomed the new members of the Board, Mr Marc Hodler, IOC member in Switzerland and chairman of the Finance Commission; and Mrs Flor Isava Fonseca, IOC member in Venezuela, the first woman to be elected to the Executive Board.

Following the meeting last November in Harare (R.O. No. 277) between the African sports authorities and South African sports leaders, the situation of sport in South Africa was the subject of a report by H.E. Keba Mbaye, chairman of the Apartheid and Olympism Commission. The second IOC Vice-President presented the conclusions of this first meeting at which the declared opposition of the South African sports authorities to apartheid could be evaluated. Although the system persists in the country and reintegration is inconceivable at present, we can expect to see a change which, in sporting terms, would mean the unification of each sport and the creation of a single multisports body. In view of these changes Mr Mbaye could head an official IOC mission to South Africa in order to meet the sports and political authorities and assess the situation. At all events, the position of the IOC remains unchanged: the decision to readmit the South African NOC to the Olympic family will still, Mr Mbaye reminded members, depend on the prior approval of the other African nations.

Turning to medical issues, the Executive Board felt that rather than creating a mobile testing laboratory, "it would be preferable to follow the example of the Federations

which collect the samples themselves and send them to analytical laboratories accredited by the IOC". The idea of a mobile laboratory had been envisaged in order to compensate for the absence of accredited laboratories in some parts of the world. The question was a practical nature, explained Mr Samaranch, and in no way a step backwards. "For a long time we were alone in the fight against doping, which we have pursued since the 1968 Games in Mexico. After Seoul, we were joined by many International Federations and National Olympic Committees, like those of the United States and the Soviet Union, who have signed an agreement on this issue."

A report by the Medical Commission revealed that in 1989 some 50,000 tests were analyzed in the world by accredited laboratories. 2.6 % of the samples were positive. According to Medical Commission chairman Prince Alexandre de Merode,



*Jean-Claude Killy presents the Olympic downhill course in Alpine skiing for the Games in Lillehammer, which was approved by the Executive Board.*



*The IOC President and Mr Gerhard Heiberg welcome T.R.H. Crown Prince Harald of Norway, Honorary President of the Lillehammer OCOG and Crown Princess Sonia, who presides over the organizing committee of the cultural festival.*

speaking about this issue in December, "this fight against doping has to go through a period of reflection which enables us to understand why an athlete takes drugs. The 'precariousness' of the position of the top level athlete and the fact that a career can be cut short by an injury are two things which may convince young people that they need to dope to achieve good performances." Finally, the prince called on the Federations not to "keep on constantly increasing the number of competitions". "Human resistance has limits, and faced with too great a demand, the only resource left to athletes is to turn to products which help them to keep going".

## BARCELONA AND ATLANTA

No new NOCs will be recognized before the Games in Barcelona in order to limit as much as possible the number of participants. This decision by the Board was greatly appreciated by Mr Josep Miquel Abad, Chief Executive Officer of COOB'92, who is faced with a potential influx of athletes and officials of unprecedented numbers. The thorny problem still on the

agenda is how to achieve a bigger reduction without causing any kind of damage. Construction of the venues is progressing on schedule, and many test events will be held in 1991 to perfect the arrangements made. Several other pending questions will be studied by the Executive Board at its next meeting which will take place in Barcelona in April, prior to its meeting with the Olympic Summer Federations.

It was then the turn of Atlanta, Olympic city of the 1996 Games, to present its first report. Mr Bill Payne, who headed the delegation, announced that he would be able to inform the Executive Board as to the definitive composition of the organizing committee at its next meeting. This committee would include several members of the bid committee, and H.E. Mr Andrew Young would be the chairman of the board. For his part, Mr Robert Helmick, IOC member in the United States and president of USOC, affirmed the excellent relations USOC had with Atlanta, noting that an agreement on the sports programme had already been signed and another one involving marketing was about to follow.

## SIX FEDERATIONS AND TWO WINTER GAMES ORGANIZING COMMITTEES

The Executive Board visited the venues with the presidents and secretaries-general of the six federations (FIS, FIL, ISU, IJHF, FIBT, UIPMB) which make up the Association of the International Winter Sports Federations, headed by FIS president, Mr Marc Hodler. On the whole, the delegates were extremely satisfied with the exemplary organization, which benefits from the considerable support of numerous volunteers. All the facilities are close to the centre and links between them will be improved by means of a railway and high speed road. And the downhill ski course already exists.

The report presented by the OCOG of Albertville'92 was especially important, coming just before the start of the series of

test events at the Olympic venues which will be taking place throughout the winter. The last chance then, for the organizers to make changes before next year. Messrs Jean-Claude Killy and Michel Barnier, co-presidents, and Rémy Charmétant, sports director, were on hand to answer questions from the sports leaders. They presented the programme of Olympic competitions, which will last from 8th to 23rd February 1992. The details of each of these have been approved by the winter federations and included in technical manuals which will be sent to each national federation.

However, the IOC is still concerned about the increase in prices. The rates charged for accommodation and services are indeed dangerously high. This situation, which also applies to Barcelona, is causing concern to the representatives of the media. Mr Kevan Gosper, IOC Vice-President and chairman of the Press Commission, voiced these concerns and the President added his support, pledging to do "everything possible to resolve the problems of the journalists". Mr Gosper was asked to follow up this issue with the COGS.

## **THE ATHLETES PRESENT THEIR REPORT**

Every two years at the end of the year, the Athletes' Commission presents its report to the Executive Board. Led by their chairman Mr Peter Tallberg, IOC member in Finland, the athletes in Lillehammer expressed their satisfaction with regard to the text of the Olympic Charter as approved by the 96th Session. The fight against doping was once again at the centre of the debate, with the athletes calling for controls throughout the entire world to follow a universal code with a single set of sanctions. In addition, being concerned to ensure the quality of the treatment received by Olympic athletes at the Games, the Commission appreciated being represented on the candidate city Study and Evaluation Commission. Three members of the commission, Canada's Ken Read, the American Anita DeFrantz and Spain's Luis Alvarez Cervera, will be going to Barcelona to inspect the accommodation and study the menus which will be on offer to the athletes in 1992. The Athletes' Commission now has a representative in all the IOC's commissions.



*As this troll shows, Norwegian folklore has its part in the Games.*



*Before meeting the IOC Executive Board, the Winter Sports Federations get together in committee.*