

# 7TH YOUTH OF THE WORLD GATHERING

Launched in 1988 by the Albertville/Savoy '92 OCOG, the Youth of the World programme, intended to welcome 1992 young athletes aged between 15 and 21 during the preparation phase of the XVI Winter Games, is continuing to enjoy ever greater success, as demonstrated by the latest gathering from 2nd to 9th February last.

For the past three years, twice a year, groups of between 250 and 450 young people from all over the world have been coming to discover Savoy and mountain sports by means of long hikes in the Alps around the various Olympic venues, and a vast range of other sporting and cultural activities. The seventh such event took place from 2nd to 9th February, with almost 250 young people from thirty two countries taking part (AFG, AUS, AUT, BOL, BUL, CAN, CHN, DOM, ECU, GAM, GHA, GBR, GUM, GRE, LAO, LIE, MAS, MDV, MYA, NGR, PAN, PAR, PHI, POL, PUR, SOL, ESA, TRI, URU, VEN, ZAM, ZIM), together with four delegations from French overseas departments and territories (Guyana, Mayotte, Martinique and Réunion). The youngsters, full of enthusiasm and curiosity, and proud at being chosen for this trip, were welcomed to La Plagne by Mrs Paviet-Salomon, the mayor of the resort where the luge and bobsleigh events will take place. In previous years, groups have stayed in the Maurienne and Tarentaise valleys.

## MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE

A new element in these encounters is the contribution by Yoplait. A member of Club Coubertin, the group of exclusive suppliers to the Games, Yoplait wanted to support the event and expand it by giving it a concrete, creative and universally applicable mission. The result is a project entitled "Yoplait-Generation 92". During their week in Olympic Savoy, currently putting the finishing touches to its facilities ready for the



Games, these young people from all over the world expressed their views and explored their differences through a wide-ranging dialogue. Together they drafted a series of messages (see p. 123). The first of these stressed the need for a universal language; the second highlighted the responsibility which young people bear. The third was a call to preserve the world, and the fourth message presented the Olympic spirit as an ethic for the world. This congenial process of reflection in the form of an appeal by young people naturally leads to a desire to act. Thanks to the 'Yoplait-Generation 92' project, this appeal will be heard by the general public and those in positions of authority. A major study is presently under way, and will lead next June to the publication of a "charter" which will be presented to the president of the French Republic at the Jeux de l'Avenir (Games of the Future), scheduled to be held in Paris.

