

# HELLO FROM VIDY

**H**ere we are shot forward into the Olympic year !



**By Raymond Gafner**  
Editor-in-chief

All those who share a part of the responsibility for the success of Albertville and Barcelona — OCOGs, IFs, NOCs, IOC — will thus be diving even further into the mêlée. My wish is that they do so with joy in their hearts, but with clear heads and with their feet on the ground. For, as the price of our success, we shall be pilloried by those whose interest — and whose job — is to stir up provocation. Our response — noblesse oblige — must be to strive towards the truth.

Truth first of all, about the accusation of giving in to unbridled commercialism. Agreed, there is marketing of the Olympic emblem. The sole purpose of this is to provide the IOC, through television rights and sponsorship, with the means it needs to perform its work which, more than just during the period of the Games, has a universal and permanent character. For the appeal to Olympism, growing increasingly urgent, is that it devote itself to a new humanism capable of rescuing our world from the chaos into which it is threatening to sink.

The distribution of the funds thus obtained follows precise rules. The major part naturally goes to the OCOG, whose costs rise constantly, and whose survival only this can ensure. The share which goes to the IFs, while doubtless welcomed by all of them, is vital to the medium sized federations, whose revenues are limited. The part given to the NOCs is essentially the work of Olympic Solidarity, which has become the veritable “joker” of the Olympic Movement. But the financial effort on behalf of the NOCs also extends — as the figures show — to include their participa-

tion at the Olympic Games, making it possible for all of them to be present.

Finally, the share which the IOC keeps for its own activities, artistic and cultural as well as sporting, as Pierre de Coubertin wished it, is under under 10 % of the total of the revenue deriving from different sources. Commercialization, agreed, but unbridled? Perilous would be a truer epithet, seeming at times more like the progress of an acrobat along a tight rope, to ensure that sport such as we conceive it remains in the hands of sports men and women. The risk is as great as the stakes involved; something which is true of all human activity. No match is ever won until the final whistle. And there is nothing scandalous about our style of play. The truth is that, without financial resources, Olympism would be doomed to extinction. And who would want that to happen ?

The truth must also be sought in the claimed “gigantism” of the Games. Those who complain the loudest are often the same people who, when their own interests are at stake, call for more sports, more events, more athletes or more officials.

In my last “Hello” of 1991, I showed how the increase in the number of NOCs, a phenomenon which, in itself, is desirable and positive, could indeed lead to gigantism if we were not careful. Now this is where it is unpleasant to hear the truth. The new financial conditions granted by the OCOGs and the IOC to the participants at the Games mean — happily — that individual participation is now greatly facilitated. But at the same time this sharpens the claws of that well-known demon which manifests itself under the tempting guise of “Olympism tourism”. To succumb to this temptation would lead straight to a verit-

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able gigantism, which would be fatal to the presence of the Games on the five continents and hasten the development of an Olympic free-for-all.

The Olympic family, as this is the responsibility of all its members, must thus impose on its Games the strictness of a diet which will keep them from becoming obese and bloated. This, to a carefully thought-out degree, is the sacrifice necessary to the health of the games. This is where the truth lies. There is no way of avoiding it.

Finally, to ensure that no shadows of doubt persist, it remains for the IOC itself to be subjected to the test of truth. It is up to its members to do this for themselves, in accordance with the oath they swore, with their hand on the Olympic flag. With this oath as his compass, each must take his own bearings and, in all circumstances, adjust the tiller if required, or help a colleague to do so. No execrable witch-hunts, nor out-of-place leniency, but a greater vigilance, sense of equity and concern for dignity in the difficult quest for, and respect of, the truth. That, I feel, is what our contemporaries rightly expect of the IOC, in return for their confidence. We shall not fail them.

<b>1992</b>		<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>ALBERTVILLE</b>	1-2-3	Executive Board (I)	
	5-6	98th IOC Session	
	8-23	XVI Winter Olympic Games	
<b>MAY</b>			
<b>MONTE-CARLO</b>	6	Executive Board with ASOIF	
<b>SEVILLE</b>	7-8-9	Executive Board (II)	
<b>JULY-AUGUST</b>			
<b>BARCELONA</b>	17-18-19	Executive Board(III)	
	21-22-23	99th IOC Session	
	25/7-9/8	Games of the XXV Olympiad	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
<b>ACAPULCO</b>	4-5-6	Executive Board (IV)	
	7	Executive Board with the NOCs	
<b>1993</b>		<b>MARCH</b>	
<b>ATLANTA</b>	15-16-17	Executive Board (I)	
	18	Executive Board with ASOIF	
<b>JUNE</b>			
<b>LAUSANNE</b>	20-21-22	Executive Board (II)	
	23-24	100th IOC Session	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
<b>MONTE-CARLO</b>	18-19-20	Executive Board (III)	
	21-22-23	101st IOC Session	

This calendar is provisional.