

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN VIDY



The Executive Board met the representatives of the Association of Winter IFs, chaired by Mr Marc Hodler, FIS President. An annual meeting which, less than two months from the XVI Winter Games, gave a satisfactory overview of the situation.

The IOC Executive Board met at Olympic House from 4th to 6th December before holding its annual encounter with the representatives of the AIWF, the Olympic winter sports federations. With just two months to go before the Winter Games in Albertville, this was an important meeting.

Mr Robert Helmick, IOC member in the United States and member of the Executive Board, resigned both of these positions following allegations of a conflict of interests reported by the American press last summer. Mr Helmick, who had already stepped down as president of the United States Olympic Committee last September for the same reason, sent the following letter to the IOC President :

“I wanted to give this to you personally today in Lausanne and to explain the depth of my feelings. I also wanted to explain my decision in person to my friends on the Executive Board who arrived here today.

After much thought and reflection, I have determined that I desire to take the initiative to resign my position as a member of the International Olympic Committee.

During the last several days before coming to Lausanne, I have discussed this with family, friends and business associates who have been of great assistance.

I am taking this action because I believe it is the decent thing to do and because it serves the best interest of the IOC and the United States Olympic Movement by returning the focus to the programs for athletes.

I want to strongly reassert my belief that I have done nothing ever of harm to the Olympic Movement and appreciate the support of so many of my colleagues here. I regret the situation that has arisen as a result of how my actions have been interpreted by others.

Over 30 years of my life have been devoted to the Olympic Movement, first as an athlete and then in my capacities in the last 22 years as a member of the USOC and the IOC. There is nothing that I have done during this entire time to compromise the good work that is being done under the Olympic banner.

In tendering my resignation, I wish you and my associates on the IOC well. I wish also all that is good for the perpetuation of the Olympic Ideal, and remain at your continued service in any capacity you desire."

Former president of the United States Water Polo Federation, Mr Helmick (54) was director of the American team which won a bronze medal at the Games in Munich. Chairman of the FINA water polo technical committee, he went on to become FINA secretary-general and was elected president from 1984 to 1988. Vice-president of the USOC from 1980 to 1985, he then took over from John Kelly as president. Within the IOC, to which he was co-opted in 1985, he was a member of the Olympic Solidarity Commission and represented the IFs within the Olympic Movement Commission. He was elected to the Executive Board in 1989.

As a result of Mr Helmick's decision to resign, explained IOC Vice-President Mr

Keba Mbaye, the inquiry committee set up by the Executive Board at its previous meeting, which had not yet reached a conclusion, ceased its investigation.

The South African question was one of the important points on the agenda, with a report from Mr Sam Ramsamy, president of the South African NOC which was reintegrated last August. According to Mr Ramsamy, who was accompanied by Messrs Mluleki George and Johan Du Plessis, respectively vice-president and secretary-general of the NOC, his country looks certain to be taking part in the Games in Barcelona, but the unification of the various national federations is still posing numerous difficulties. So far, twenty-three federations have reached an agreement and obtained international recognition, but several points of disagreement still exist. The IOC President appreciated that it was not easy to find satisfactory solutions after such a long absence, and for this reason offered to arrange a new mission by the Apartheid and Olympism Commission, led by Mr Keba Mbaye, in January.

SITUATION IN EUROPE

After South Africa, the Executive Board studied the question of the political situation in the Soviet Union and in Yugoslavia. The creation of new states recognized by the international community requires a clarification of the IOC's general policy on recognizing new NOCs which may be summarized as follows : no new NOC will be accepted before 1993, but "the door remains open" to committees formed as a result of the disintegration of a state. With this in mind, the Executive Board invested full powers in the President and four vice-presidents to grant potential recognition to the Olympic committees of Croatia and Slovenia to allow them to participate in Albertville, where the twelve former Soviet Republics have agreed to compete under a common flag for practical and material reasons. On the other hand, the details of participation in Barcelona by the new states formed from the ex-USSR are to be discussed at a meeting in Lausanne on 20th March next.

On a more general level, participation at the Games is to be the subject of a

detailed study. As President Samaranch recalled, the IOC has decided that, as from 1996, a limit will be imposed on the number of athletes. The system chosen will have to combine participation by all the NOCs of the world with a high level and quality of the participants themselves.

For his part, Mr Anselmo Lopez, the Director of Olympic Solidarity, presented a detailed comparative study of the costs of stay for the NOCs in the Olympic villages in Los Angeles, Seoul and Barcelona. The Olympic Review will be coming back to this study shortly.

SUCCESS OF THE II SPORTS SCIENCE CONGRESS

Prince Alexandre de Merode, the chairman of the IOC Medical Commission, described the anti-doping measures which will be employed at the Games in both Albertville and Barcelona this year. There will be no major changes as compared with previous Games, with tests being conducted rigor-

ously. Two new stimulants, amineptine and mesocarbe, have been added to the list of banned substances. The practice of blood testing does not seem to be subject to any kind of restrictive controls; such was the conclusion of the study conducted by Mr Kéba Mbaye at the request of the Executive Board. Blood tests are not prohibited by any religion, custom or legal text, but the commission decided nonetheless to broaden its investigation, particularly among athletes taking part in several competitions, in order to determine what effects this kind of control could have on subsequent performance.

The Prince de Merode also gave a detailed report on the excellent results of the II IOC World Congress on Sports Science in Barcelona. This important gathering, from 26th to 31st October last year, brought together over 1200 participants from almost sixty countries to hear around 100 lectures on developments in sports science. The opening ceremony took place in the presence of Prince Felipe of Asturias, the IOC President, the mayor of the Olympic city and the president of the Generalitat, in the amphitheatre of the brand new Catalan Higher Institute for Physical Education (INEFEC) where, in addition to the scientists, many personalities from the academic and sports world and students from the institute were also in the audience.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE GAMES

The organizing committees of the forthcoming Games gave an account of their respective preparations :

With less than two months to go before the XVI Winter Games, Messrs Michel Barnier and Jean-Claude Killy, co-presidents of the 'Albertville/Savoy 92 COJO, declared that everything was ready for this event which looks set to beat all records for participation, with fifty-eight NOCs expected.

After analysing the financial situation of the COJO, the co-presidents stressed the two logistical aspects to which special attention has been devoted : training of volunteers, who will be giving part of their soul to the Games and who are expected to know how to handle the range of situations with which they will be faced; and the transport plan which, with the complex arrangement of the venues, is one of the most crucial elements in the smooth running of operations. The details of this plan



Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch, during his speech at the opening of the II IOC Congress on Sports Science. On the far left, Prince Felipe of Asturias and Prince Alexandre de Merode.

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show the tremendous effort made by the SNCF. The French national railways will indeed be transporting some 130,000 people with, on some days, up to 800 trains travelling up and down the Tarentaise valley, at the heart of the Olympic area, and special free Olympic shuttle bus services serving each venue. See you at the end of January in Courchevel! - a rendezvous made by the Executive Board which will be holding its first meeting of the Olympic year there, before the 98th Session and the XVI Winter Games.

The financial situation of COOB'92 was also described in the report presented by Mr José M. Abad, C.E.O. of the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Accommodation, transport and facilities for the media were other subjects addressed by the Board. At the same time, the number of athletes is giving rise to fears of an excessively long opening ceremony where, if the number of replies received is to be believed, 165 delegations will be taking part in the parade. Another record in view, as there were only 160 in Seoul. Only five NOCs (AFG, BRU, HAI, PAN, SOM) had not replied but, as Mr Abad pointed out, they had not refused the invitation either.

After the representatives from Lillehammer, it was the turn of the Atlanta delegation to report on their progress.

Their team has been added to by the arrival of Mr Manolo Romero, a specialist on issues involving radio and television broadcasting, who has already been covering these areas for COOB'92. Finally, the ACOG president, Mr Billy Payne, proposed that the equestrian events should be held, not at Stone Mountain, but at the Georgia international equestrian park in Rockdale County. This proposal was accepted by the Executive Board, which also heard that the Organizing Committee of the XVIII Winter Games in Nagano had just been constituted and would be presenting its first report in Albertville.

Mr Gilbert Felli, Sports Director, had a number of proposals to present to the Board which were agreed to and thus will now be put to the IOC members for approval at the next Session. Two competitions for disabled

athletes are to be included in the Olympic programme under the title of exhibition sports. At the same time, the individual and team competitions in the three-day event are to be included after all. On the other hand, the mixed trap and skeet shooting events are to be deleted in favour of separate events for men and women. The addition of two events requested by the UIT, double trap for men and women, was accepted, as was the quota reduction from 440 to 430.

Finally, this meeting also saw the announcement of some important changes in the chairmanship of the IOC commissions.



VISIT TO THE MUSEUM

The President took the members of the Board on a guided visit of the future Museum, accompanied by the Museum architect, Mr Ramírez Vázquez, IOC member in Mexico, and Messrs Jean-François Pahud, director of the establishment, and Luis Monreal, who is in charge of the museography. Mr Monreal also presented a full report on the organization of this future grand Olympic centre.

Mr Philippe Chatrier, IOC member in France, former ITF president and current president of the French Tennis Federation, was appointed chairman of the Programme Commission to replace Mr Vitaly Smirnov, IOC member in the Soviet Union, who has taken over as chairman of the Eligibility Commission.

Both these commissions will have their work cut out in the coming years. The first will have to rethink totally the Olympic programme in readiness for the 2000 Games; and the second will have to deal with all the issues arising from the massive change-around in nationalities currently taking place.