

DECISIONS OF THE 98th SESSION



An amphitheatre becomes an unusual workplace for the members.

This short two-day Session, which offered a chance for the IOC members to meet before the start of the XVI Olympic Winter Games, took place near the peaks of Courchevel 1850m, in the theatre of the FACIM (Foundation for cultural activity in the mountains), a body headed by Mr Michel Barnier.

As is customary, the working sessions began with the taking of the oath, this time by Mr Thomas Bach, the new member in Germany, who then joined his colleagues. The IOC President awarded the Olympic Order to Mr Michel Clare on the occasion of his retirement as editor-in-chief of the French Sports newspaper "L'Equipe". This honour is a tribute to a pro-

fessional life devoted entirely to the service of sport and the Olympic ideal.

Seven IOC members, who had sent apologies for their absence, did not take part in this Session :Rajah Bhalendra Singh, Mr Ahmed Touny, H.E. Augustin Arroyo, Messrs Virgilio de Leon, Pedro Ramirez Vazquez, Anthony Bridge and H.R.H.

98th SESSION IN COURCHEVEL

Prince Faisal. For his part, Mr Giorgio de Stefani, although present for the Session opening, returned to Italy suffering from severe general fatigue.

The return of the NOCs of the Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, to the Olympic Movement, approved by the members by postal vote at the end of 1991, was officially ratified. In the same way, the provisional recognition of the NOCs of Croatia and Slovenia, decided on by the Executive Board in January, was also ratified in order to allow the athletes of these newly independent countries to take part in Albertville. However, this latter recognition will not be regarded as definitive until the NOCs have fulfilled all the conditions laid down by the Olympic Charter.

The members also gave their approval to the agreement on participation by a "unified team" made up of the athletes of five republics of the former USSR: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The Unified Team (EUN), comprising around 200, mostly Russian, athletes, thus paraded under the Olympic flag, and the Olympic anthem was played to mark their victories. Every athlete was nonetheless allowed to wear their own national colours on their sleeves. These details had been



worked out in Moscow one week before the Games during a visit which President Juan Antonio Samaranch paid to the Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The procedure to be adopted for the Games of the XXV Olympiad was to be decided at a meeting on 9th March in Lausanne, to which the IOC invited representatives of all the former Soviet republics. In connection with this, with the agreement of his colleagues, Mr Vitaly Smirnov, IOC Vice-President, officially became the IOC member in the Federative Russian Republic and IOC delegate for issues concerning the former USSR.

As the IOC President stressed in his traditional end-of-Session press conference, the agreement reached with Mr Yeltsin showed that "the IOC is pursuing its policy of flexibility in order to adapt to geo-political changes". As many such changes are currently taking place, it is quite probable, the President continued, that anything up to 190 or 200 NOCs will be taking part at the next Games. In spite of this increase, the number of athletes at the Games should not exceed 10,000 or 10,500. In future, as is already the case for many sports, participation will be dependent on good performances. "The Olympic Games must be kept for the best athletes. For the others, there are regional games. "This restriction on participants will entail a modification to the Olympic programme, a task for the commission headed by Mr Philippe Chatrier, IOC member in France. In addition, the Centenary Congress is intended to produce some initial ideas for a revised and condensed programme insofar as this is possible. At least, this is the wish of Mr Samaranch, who wants to have the opinions of all sections of the Olympic family.

The members, who approved all the reports by the commissions, also gave their agreement to a new rule in the Olympic Charter. This rule will give the IOC President the right to appoint two, and only two, IOC members "without distinction of nationality or domicile", but on the basis of their abilities or the position they hold. In this way the current president of the IAAF and ASOIF, Mr Primo Nebiolo, who because of his Italian nationality could not become a member since Italy already has two members, could be nominated on a basis similar to "ex officio".



Mr Thomas Bach, new IOC member in Germany, takes his oath at the first sitting of the Session.

A week before the start of the Games, the IOC President had met Mr Boris Yeltsin.



*Mr Jean-Albert Corrand,
Director-General of the
Albertville-Savoy COJO.*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE GAMES

The organizing committees of the forthcoming Games reported on their work, beginning with Messrs Jean-Claude Killy and Michel Barnier, the Albertville COJO co-presidents, accompanied by Mr Jean-Albert Corrand, Director-General. With their usual precision, they showed that, two days away from the start of the Games, they were in total control of the situation, in spite of the difficulties inherent in the location of the Olympic venues. But the omens were good following the tremendous success, surpassing all expectations, of the Olympic torch relay. Mrs Claire Potvin, head of Olympic relations, told the members that 2030 athletes were expected at the Games. For the Albertville team, the presentation of this final report was thus the last meeting with the members. It was the last-but-one for COOB'92. Mr Pasqual Maragall, president of COOB'92, accompanied by a large delegation, described the security measures taken by the Spanish government. Communications also featured in the report with the announcement of the inauguration, on 17th February, of the new terminal of Barcelona airport, the work of architect Ricardo Bofill. That would be followed in April by the opening of the ring road around the Catalan capital, which

would considerably improve traffic flow. Moreover, during the Games this summer, the Olympic city will be spared some of the normal daily traffic pressure through the timing of school and public holidays. Nevertheless, a way must still be found to reduce the number of athletes taking part in the Games. For this purpose, Mr Pal Schmitt, a member of the Executive Board, and the IOC Sports Director, Mr Gilbert Felli, will be working with the NOCs to achieve such a reduction. COOB, declared Mr Maragall, wanted these to be games of reconciliation in which the entire Olympic family would take part. They would not make a profit in themselves, he continued, but "a whole region will benefit from the numerous long-awaited improvements. These Games have resulted in the creation of 80,000 new jobs, giving Barcelona one of the lowest unemployment rates in Spain."

The opening of the Games in Albertville meant that there were 737 days left for Lillehammer to conclude its own preparations. This affirmation came from the LOOC President, Mr Gerhard Heiberg, who was also flanked by an impressive delegation. Relations between the Albertville and Lillehammer organizing committees are, moreover, very close. Many



*The LOOC 94 delegation
prepares to take over from
COJO'92.*

98th SESSION IN COURCHEVEL



Mr Tsuda, Director General of the Nagano OCOG, presents Mr Samaranch with a memento of his city.

volunteers at the Albertville venues had made the trip from Norway specially to acquire some first-hand experience. Since Birmingham last year, fifty percent of the construction programme has been completed, with the primary objectives being to respect the environment and generally improve the facilities in a region which hopes, by creating jobs in the winter tourism sector, to derive long-term benefit from these Games.

In Nagano too, the situation is becoming clearer. The organizing committee, whose delegation was led by the NOOC Director General, Mr Tsuda, presented their first report, virtually all contained in a video showing the state of construction in progress, with the emphasis again on respecting the environment.

ACOG, which has just celebrated its first anniversary, has signed a marketing agreement with the United States Olympic Committee and a price-setting agreement with hotel owners in Atlanta. Thanks to a

joint effort by the IOC President, Messrs Marc Hodler, Francois Carrard and Manolo Romero, a specialist on the subject, the results of the broadcasting rights agreement with the EBU are excellent. The ACOG President, Mr Billy Payne, thus had every reason to be pleased before presenting a new Atlanta logo combining symbols of the Games, their centennial and excellence.

For future candidate cities, their budgets should now be lighter thanks to a draft produced by Mr Marc Hodler which, amongst other things, stipulates that visits by bid committees to every IOC member must be avoided. This set of guidelines limiting to the strict minimum expenditure by cities bidding to host the Games was adopted by the Session. It completes the various instructions to be followed by bid cities, and will be sent to the cities wishing to host the Games in the year 2000, namely Berlin (GER), Brasilia (BRA), Manchester (GBR), Milan (ITA), Beijing (CHN) and Sydney (AUS).

The new logo for the Centennial Games in Atlanta.

