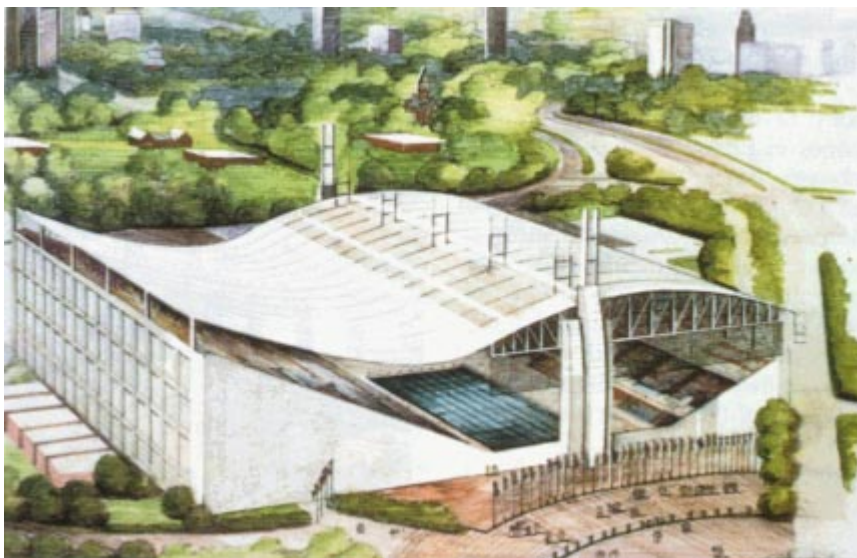


The Coordination Commission held its seventh meeting in Atlanta on 9th and 10th May. This IOC-IF-NOC monitoring group, chaired by Mr Richard W.Pound, examined all ACOG's planning, from the athletes' village to ticket sales and after two days of intensive scrutiny in plenary session and specialized break-out groups, the IOC president, who was attending for the first time, could declare himself "very pleased" with preparations for the Centennial Games,

# Atlanta on target



The Pan-Pacific Swimming Championships will be held next year in Atlanta's Natatorium at Georgia Tech.



With just over two years to go, the construction programme is on schedule. Members visited the Olympic Village at Georgia Tech university, where several new apartment blocks are already occupied by students. In 1996, the Village will take over nearly the whole campus, to become a cosmopolitan city housing some 15,000 people and providing all kinds of facilities that will include a convenience store, snack bars, a disco, hair salon, camera shop, bowling alley, gift shop, billiard centre, post office, international press stand, video arcade, travel agency, shopping mall, and video playback studio. Plus live entertainment, religious services and, of course, rooms for exercise and mas-

sage, bike paths and jogging trails. Test events in the new sports facilities will begin next year. The natatorium, which will be at Georgia Tech itself, will be hosting the Pan-Pacific Swimming Championships in August 1995. A wavy-roofed, open air facility now under construction, it will have a huge spiral entry for the Games, which will be dismantled afterwards, along with the waterpolo pool, to reduce the venue's 15,000-spectator Olympic capacity to a more campus-sized 4,000. Its soaring diving tower will have the city as its backdrop.

## THE CAULDRON

There will be another new feature to see on the Atlanta skyline: the Centen-

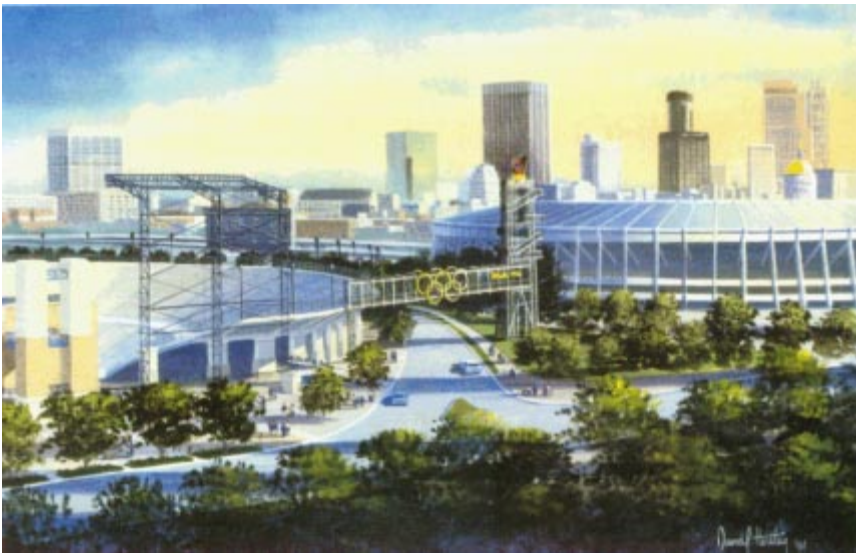
nial Olympic Cauldron, which will house the Olympic Flame for the seventeen days of the 1996 Games. Its design, just unveiled, shows a 16-foot scroll-shaped steel flame edged with Georgia red clay and burnished with gold leaf atop a soaring 132 foot tower forming the letter "A" in densely interwoven steel. This will be linked to the Stadium in the historic Summerhill district by a 190-foot bridge spanning the four lanes of traffic along Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard. The bridge, clad in green wood and inscribed with the names of Olympic host cities from Athens in 1896, will hold the Olympic Rings in the centre in gold leaf and the words "Atlanta 1996". "The bridge brings everything and everyone together, all the cultures of the world," says the creator of this monumental structure, Siah Armajani.



President Juan Antonio Samaranch with, left, Mr Payne and, right, Messrs Pound and Carrard at the post-coordination press conference.

social commitment, Armajani is already known to the Olympic family for his Irene Hiyon Whitney Bridge in Minneapolis, a 375-foot pedestrian walkway spanning sixteen lanes of traffic, which won the Joan Miró International Prize at the Games in Barce-

them peace and protection," says the artist. Adjoining a small park at the foot of the cauldron will be a gazebo, its floors and seating again made of the green lumber characteristic of the architecture of the American South. The cauldron has had rave reviews by locals and art specialists alike, who think it will be a permanent artistic legacy to the city on a par with the Eiffel Tower in Paris. A tangible excitement has been building up since Lillehammer and the cauldron, which will be lit on 19th July 1996 and burn for seventeen days, has focused it. That Flame is not far off.



The Centennial Olympic cauldron and bridge. (Right) Mr Gay Hite with Mr Richard W. Pound in Lillehammer.

One of the rare sculptors to work on an Olympic cauldron - normally done by industrial designers or architects, he is responsible for many works of art in the US and Europe, including the Lannan Foundation Poetry Garden in Los Angeles and Battery Park City in New York. With a reputation for his large-scale public works with a strong

lona. He also created a "Reading House", a sculptural environment for contemplation, for the Games in Lake Placid. Another green wooden "house" will be situated mid-way up the tower at the bridge level. With its hand-coloured glass windows, it will symbolize Atlanta's hospitality and warmth. "It brings all the world together and offers

## OLYMPIC ORDER FOR GARY HITE

Mr Gory Hite, who has led the Coca-Cola Company's support for the Games and international sport for ten years, received the Olympic Order from the IOC President during the Coordination Commission's visit to Atlanta. "A great friend of the Olympic family", it was his personal intervention at Coca-Cola that helped the IOC develop the TOP Programme of sponsorship for the Olympic Movement. As well as its constant support for the Olympic Day Run, under his innovative management Coca-Cola pioneered the Olympic sport of pin collecting, and set up innovative schemes such as the International Torchbearers Programme, which spreads the Olympic message amongst youngsters.

