



Olympic Solidarity

Toward a new horizon



Olympic Solidarity, the cornerstone of the Olympic Movement, has charted a new course for the year 2000.

While continuing to oversee the distribution to the 197 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), and particularly to those with the greatest need, of some 30% of the Olympic Movement's revenues from television rights for the Olympic Games, Olympic Solidarity has adopted a new policy, increasing the responsibilities of the NOCs and their Continental Associations in the implementation and administration of funded programmes.

Resources

Olympic Solidarity's new director, Pere Miró, devised this new approach to technical assistance and brought it to fruition

in consultation with all the parties concerned. Now working with a quadrennial budget of \$121.9 million for the 1997-2000 period, a 64% increase over the previous period, the department aims also to increase the creativity and number of its programmes.

The rise in budget was approved based on both the growth in revenues from television rights for the Games of the XXVI Olympiad, the Centennial Games, in Atlanta in 1996, and projected figures for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano in 1998.

With larger resources to draw upon, Olympic Solidarity will be able to expand its financial support to the NOCs, allowing them to develop a stronger base for their athletes, coaches and officials. Olympic Solidarity has made it possible for the NOCs of the world to participate

in the Olympic Games, regardless of their respective financial situations. Now, it will seek to empower them, in collaboration with their Continental Associations, so that they may gain the autonomy to select and control their own programmes, set goals for their athletes and assess the results.

Distribution

Olympic Solidarity takes a tripartite approach to its budget, providing for athlete scholarships, technical training programmes, and subsidies to the NOCs.

Consistent with the fundamental principles of the Olympic Movement, priority always lies with the athletes. Hence, a vast programme of **scholarships** has been devised to support the efforts of NOCs in developing countries in preparing their athletes to participate in the



(Left to right) Mario Vazquez Raña, deputy chairman of the Olympic Solidarity Commission and ANOC president, and Feliciano Mayoral, ANOC secretary general.

XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano and the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney. The "Atlanta'96" scholarships made it possible for many sportsmen and -women from the developing world to prepare for the Games of the XXVI Olympiad in Atlanta in 1996, where 18 of them took medals (seven gold, four silver and seven bronze).

In addition, NOCs in developing countries can select candidates for Olympic Solidarity scholarships specifically designed for young athletes under the age of 20 to improve their athletic and academic training. Scholarships are also available to coaches between the ages of 25 and 45, selected by NOCs, to perfect their expertise.

The **technical training** programme provides athletes and trainers from the NOCs with the greatest need the opportunity to improve their technical know-how by taking special courses run by experts appointed by the International Olympic sport Federations. "Need" in this case is determined in agreement with the Continental Associations, and does not necessarily correspond to national development levels.

Finally, the 197 **NOCs** receive an annual operating budget of \$10,000 through Olympic Solidarity. At each edition of the Olympic Games, participating NOCs receive funds to send a certain number of athletes and officials to take part (six athletes and two officials for the Games of the Olympiad: three athletes and one



A training session in rowing.

official to the Olympic Winter Games). In future, assistance to the NOCs will also provide for new programmes in the areas of women and sport, sport and the environment, and humanitarian aid.

Coordination

Coordination will be the watchword in achieving Olympic Solidarity's new objectives in terms of technical analysis, control, and assessment of programmes. The Continental Associations will be called upon to assist in evaluating need and following up on the implementation of programmes. Technical experts and cooperating organizations will be requested to contribute to the design and oversight of programmes, as well as to the evaluation of their results.

Ultimately, Olympic Solidarity hopes this approach will give all NOCs the autonomy and expertise to select, implement and follow up on programmes, and to chart their own course in the 21st century.



*Pere Miró,
Olympic Solidarity director.*



Gbada Shouaa, Olympic Solidarity scholarship recipient and heptathlon gold-medallist in Atlanta.