

Islamic Republic of Iran

Further to the Lausanne Declaration issued by the World Conference on Doping in Sport held in Lausanne in February, Seyed Mostafa Hashemi Taba, vice president of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Sport and NOC president, announced Iran's support for the IOC's initiative to intensify the fight against drug abuse in sport. The following items were cited by Hashemi Taba to the press:

1. The Physical Education Organization and the NOC of the Islamic Republic of Iran shall firmly back the struggle against the use of doping in sport. Both organizations have taken appropriate measures to issue the necessary instructions for implementation by the national federations and other bodies concerned.
2. Observing the recommendations of the IOC, the Physical Education Organization and the NOC are currently preparing a Bill to be submitted to the Parliament for approval. Accord-

ing to this Bill, in addition to usual disciplinary measures, there also will be legal punishment imposed on the detected cases of doping in sport.

3. Both organizations confirm the declaration issued by the World Conference on Doping in Sport held in Lausanne and welcome the proposals therein concerning methods aimed to safe-

guard moral principles and promote the spirit of fair play in sport.

4. Both organizations support the IOC-proposed project for setting up an international anti-doping agency under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee to fight against doping, and hope that the project, with the collaboration of NOCs and governmental organizations world-wide, will be brought into action as soon as possible.



Seyed Mostafa Hashemi, Taba.

Argentina

On 9 November, the Argentine National Olympic Committee organized a day of activities entitled Sport and Health for primary school children from various districts of the federal capital, Buenos Aires. During the opening ceremony, the president of the NOC, Antonio Rodriguez, made a short speech before planting an Olympic oak tree as a symbol of the importance of ecology and protecting the environment. A series of sporting events were then held and the participants were later given a check-up by the medical team of a hospital run by the government of the city of Buenos Aires, to demonstrate the perfect symbiosis which exists between sport and health.

Niger

As a result of the seminar on the promotion and creation of national Olympic academies in French-speaking west Africa, which took place in Cotonou, Benin, in 1997, the Niger Olympic Academy was recently created in Niamey. Its first meeting took place from 15 to 20 March 1999, with the support of

Mamadou Talata Doulla and Ibrahim Cissé, president and secretary general respectively of the Niger Olympic Committee. Conrado Durántez, member of the IOC Commission for the International Olympic Academy and Education, also attended. The president of the new Olympic Academy is Ide Issaka, who is also president of the national taekwondo federation.



The participants: (centre) Ibrahim Cissé, Ide Issaka, Mamadou Talata and Conrado Durántez.