

## OLYMPIC NEWS

*from newspapers, magazines, and wire service reports*

○ The IOC Executive Board has approved formation of a Supreme Council of Arbitration in Sport. The IOC hopes to convince athletes to settle any disputes through the Arbitration Council. This is, in part, a response to the recent problems between the IAAF and Butch Reynolds.

○ Problems continue with Beijing's image and their Olympic bid. The United States Congress, led by former Olympic gold medalist Bill Bradley, has passed a resolution asking the IOC not to award the 2000 Olympic Games to Beijing because of their history of human rights abuses. In a letter to Juan Antonio Samaranch, Bradley wrote, "Holding the Games in China, while its government imprisons and tortures peaceful political dissidents, would confer a stamp of approval on Chinese leaders which they do not deserve." The U.S. Congress, both houses, passed a resolution to the effect of asking IOC Member to the United States, Anita DeFrantz, not to vote for Beijing. See DeFrantz's recent letter to *Sports Illustrated* concerning this vote - reprinted below.

The IOC was quite upset by this and Kevan Gosper commented that it was ironic that the Congress would make this resolution while still granting China most-favored-nation trade status. "It seems as if the U.S. government is talking with two voices - one on trade and one on the Olympics," commented Gosper. He also noted that China might boycott the 1996 Olympics if it feels that U.S. interference dooms Beijing's bid. IOC Director General François Carrard commented, "It is a most unfortunate intrusion of politics into sport." He Zhenliang, IOC vice-president to China, said, "This is very badly seen by the IOC, because it represents an attack on Olympic principles and is unacceptable." He urged, "Let sportsmen, not politicians, decide sports affairs."

U.S. Olympic Committee President LeRoy Walker met with U.S. Congressional Leaders shortly after the above rhetoric occurred. He asked the Congressional leaders to consider the ramifications of their campaign against Beijing. He also urged them to "think about" potential damage to the worldwide image of the U.S. Olympic Movement.

One IOC official told Iain Macleod of *The Daily Telegraph* that he knew of four IOC members who had switched their votes to Beijing because of the United States' stand on the issue, stating that they refuse to be swayed by what they saw as political blackmail.

For further information about this, see the column below in this issue which has been reprinted from *USA Today* with the permission of the author, Tom Weir, along with the letter from Anita DeFrantz.

○ The Olympic Museum officially opened on Wednesday, 23 June 1993 in Lausanne. See Ian Buchanan's notes in this issue concerning our meeting with President Samaranch, during which we toured the Olympic Museum as well.

○ The IOC has released the preliminary reports concerning the bid cities for the 2000 Olympics. The release of the bid also coincided with President Samaranch visiting one of the cities - Manchester, England. *The Daily Telegraph* of London summarized the reports on each city as follows:

Beijing - this "realistic and solid" bid impressed the IOC Commission who made no references to complaints about human rights in China. But the report did express concern

about China's intention to bar entry to "those whose entries are regarded as posing a threat to China's national security and social order."

Berlin - received a very reassuring report, despite the opposition of certain groups within the city. "Public opposition to the bid does exist, but, from the information available, this would appear to be a minority element," said the report. The IOC Commission praised the involvement of sports experts and several who were connected with the 1972 Games in München.

Brasilia - this bid drew extensive criticism from the IOC Commission. It stated, "The Bid Committee lacks any sports experts in its membership and appears to be very far removed from the NOC." Several wire service reports noted that President Samaranch was suggesting it might be wise for Brasilia to withdraw from the race and rumors were that several IOC members consider it the "worst bid in Olympic history." [*Editor's Note: Brasilia has since dropped out of the race.*]

Istanbul - the lack of suitable stadia and chronic traffic congestion were described as a "major concern." An Olympic Law, recently passed by the Turkish parliament, was praised by the Commission, because it would give the organizing committee strong powers to raise money and stage the event.

Manchester - the "highlight of the bid" was noted to be telecommunications and the report also noted the "compact nature of the bid" with 15 sports planned for the inner city. A black mark was that eight of 23 facilities still need to be built. A strong point of the bid was the links between the British Olympic Association, the private sector, and the national and local governments.

Sydney - won warm praise from the Commission, several IOC observers noting that it was an "almost perfect bid." The report stated, "The bid offers conditions over and above what is required by the IOC. Sydney offers a solid bid and a safe environment." One IOC official was quoted as saying that the Sydney bid "had no weak points."

○ After the IOC report was announced, London sports bookmaker Ladbrokes adjusted the latest odds for those looking to get a bet down on the selection of the Olympic city for 2000. Odds at late July 1993 listed Sydney leading at 4-9, followed by Manchester at 5-2, having moved ahead of Beijing, now 4-1. Berlin follows at 14-1, with Istanbul at 50-1, and Brasilia at 100-1. On 12 August, Brasilia announced that it was withdrawing from the bid process, leaving only 5 remaining bid cities of the original eight, and certainly raising the odds against its being chosen. The IOC will choose the host city at its Annual Session in Monte Carlo on 23 September 1993.

○ Michael Butcher of *The European* is presenting a weekly series of articles discussing the relative merits of the candidate cities for the Olympics of 2000. The first two articles concerned Brasilia and Istanbul. Obviously, he is beginning with the "long shots" and working upwards. I expect this will continue weekly until just before the IOC Session on 23 September 1993.

○ Lillehammer has dropped plans to make two million disposable plates from potato starch and then feed them to pigs after the Olympics. They will instead be using paper plates after many Norwegian industrialists feared the loss of jobs if the potato-based plates, made in Sweden, were used at the Olympic Winter Games.

- Lillehammer continues to have problem with its site, or lack of it. Hotel and motel rooms are at a premium, and several reports note that local residents are renting rooms, beds, and their homes for exorbitant prices for the period of the 1994 Olympic Winter Games. The organizing committee is attempting to hold down prices and avoid price gouging. Homes have rented for *circa* \$57,000 for the period of the Games, with rooms going at between \$285-430 per night.

- FISA, the rowing federation, has submitted a qualification system for the Olympic Games to the IOC. Federations would have two opportunities to qualify boats for the Olympic Games: 1) at the World Championships held in the year prior to the Olympics, and 2) at an Olympic Qualification Regatta during the Olympic year.

- Gymnastics is attempting to add a team rhythmic gymnastics event for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. This has not yet been decided. Also, at the recent world championships, a new scoring for the artistic events was instituted. Also, no compulsory exercises were included in the program.

- Basketball will expand at the 1996 Olympics to include twelve (12) teams in the women's tournament, the same number as the men have had in recent years. At recent Olympics, the women have had only eight (8) teams.

- The current statutes on football (soccer) qualification for the Olympics state that the age limit will continue to be 23 years. However, each team may have up to three (3) older players. FIFA and the IOC seem to be getting closer to allowing full professional participation in Olympic football (soccer).

- The 1993 world championships in modern pentathlon marked the debut of the new format in which all five events took place in one day. This is the format which will be used at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

- Women's softball will be contested as a full medal sport at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. It will be a fast-pitch tournament with eight (8) teams of 15 players each. It will be contested at Columbus, Georgia, approximately 90 miles (145 km.) from Atlanta. The tournament will be contested at Golden Park, a minor league baseball facility which will be renovated for the Olympics.

Softball makes the second venue to be set far from Atlanta, joining Savannah, which will host yachting. (It is very common for yachting to be at a site distance from the main Olympic center.) White-water canoeing will also be held well outside of Atlanta. It even will be partially contested in another state, Tennessee. The events will be held on the Ocoee River on the Georgia-Tennessee border, north of Atlanta.

- The volleyball federation (FIVB) has announced that beach volleyball will be considered for possible inclusion on the Olympic program at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. The decision on the inclusion of beach volleyball will be made at the IOC Session in Monte Carlo in September 1993.

- For the third consecutive Olympiad, NBC has been awarded the American television rights to the Olympic Games - this time for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. NBC was awarded the rights during a bid session in New York on 27 July. The winning bid was \$456 million (US). ABC finished second, bidding \$440 million in the first round and increasing its

bid to around \$450 million in the second round. NBC, which kept its bid constant at \$456 million in both rounds, was awarded the rights after the second round. CBS bid approximately \$405 million in round one and \$415 million in round two. The bidding was conducted by IOC Vice-President (and ISOH Member) Dick Pound of Canada.

Dick Ebersol, President of NBC Sports, stated, "We feel very strongly these Games will be profitable. Unlike Barcelona, Atlanta's events will be live in prime time." Ebersol pleased Atlanta officials by including in the bid package the following perks: revenue-sharing with the ACOG after \$615 million in advertising sales, a promotional campaign on NBC Sports shows worth at least \$6.5 million, and a half-hour show promoting the Atlanta Olympics before NBC telecast of the 1994 Super Bowl in Atlanta.

One other change that possibly increased the value of the bid was the decision by the IOC and ACOG to add an extra day to the Games by holding the opening ceremonies on Friday night, 19 July 1996. This will enable the opening ceremonies to be held in the evening of the United States' Eastern Time Zone.

- One Bosnian athlete competed at the recent World Athletics Championships in Stuttgart, Germany. This was Kada Delic, a walker who finished 38th in the women's 10 kilometre walk. In an interview with ISOH member Christine Brennan of *The Washington Post*, Delic told how she had gone to Turkey to train because she was shot at multiple times while attempting to train in Bosnia. Bosnian Olympic officials attempted to send over 100 athletes to Turkey for training but had difficulty arranging it because of the problems getting in and out of Bosnia.

- In a related matter, Steve Woodward of *USA Today* has reported that the United States Olympic Committee, working closely with the U.S. State Department is attempting to help Bosnian athletes by granting them temporary visas. Twelve other NOCs (not named in the article) are also involved in this project, called the "Save the Athletes of Bosnia Project." More than 240 Bosnian athletes have been targeted as beneficiaries of the project which includes athletes' travel, living and training expenses, as well as medical insurance coverage. U.S. embassies in nations bordering on Bosnia-Herzegovina are being prepared for the athletes presenting to them and requesting the visas. At least 28 of the athletes will be re-located to the United States for training.

#### **Editor's Note:**

Some members have wondered about my sources for this section. I use U.S. Newspapers primarily, especially the columns of members Phil Hersh of *The Chicago Tribune*, Steve Woodward of *USA Today*, Christine Brennan of *The Washington Post*, and John Powers of *The Boston Globe*. I would also like to use column material from Bandy Harvey of *The Los Angeles Times* but that paper is not normally available in Durham. All of the above except for John Powers have now joined ISOH. *Sports Illustrated* is the primary U.S. magazine which is referenced. In addition to Steve Woodward's work, other material from *USA Today* is often used.

For European material, I try to get a look at *The European* weekly. Ian Buchanan sends me clippings from *The Daily Telegraph* when relevant. Finally, I receive several magazines and newsletters, including *Olympic Review*, *Olympic Message*, the newsletter of the GAISF (*General Association of International Sports Federations*), and press releases from the Organizing Committees of both Atlanta and Lillehammer.

If any members, especially those from Europe, have up-to-date Olympic information which they would like to share, or which they think would be of interest to readers, please send them to my home address (on the journal letterhead). I will try to use whatever I can, remembering that I need to keep it fairly current.

# Congress shouldn't mess with

# Olympics

With all the problems that exist on U.S. soil, you would think Sen. Bill Bradley and his colleagues in Washington would have more important things to do than inject the Olympics with another dose of the one thing that could kill the Game - politics



COMMENTARY

By Tom Weir

The New Jersey Democrat is encouraging the Senate to pass a resolution against China's bid for the 2000 Olympics, similar to one that's moving through the House.

Apparently no one in Congress remembers 1980 and the Jimmy Carter-ordered boycott of the Moscow Olympics, which had absolutely zero impact on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

All we got out of that was crippled Olympic dreams for athletes who were turned into

tools of diplomacy, and a revenge boycott by the Soviets of our Los Angeles Olympics in 1984.

Under the Bradley approach we probably also would have skipped the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, and Jesse Owens wouldn't have had the opportunity to stuff

Aryan-supremacy theories in Hitler's face.

Or maybe the memory of Pearl Harbor should have made us skip the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, where Bradley won his gold medal in basketball.

With the possible exception of Switzerland, you can take the history of any nation on earth and find skeletons, including those of the five candidates for the 2000 Games.

Should Berlin's bid for the 2000 Games be nullified be-

cause of the Holocaust? Istanbul's government operated under martial law from 1979-84. We could punish Brasilia for the way Brazil is leveling rain forests England, which wants the Games for Manchester, stood by South Africa throughout apartheid.

And even the cuddly Australians of Sydney once practiced genocide against the aborigines, and they still keep that ethnic group economically disadvantaged.

Messing with the 2000 Games can only wreak havoc with those the USA will host in 1996. If congress wants an Olympic project, those are the Games it should focus on. Or is Congress proud that the Confederate symbol still is part of the gag that flies over the Georgia state capitol in Atlanta?

## Congress and the Olympics

Contrary to your report on my testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation (SCORECARD, July 26), I fully understand the right of individuals and government to voice their opinions on any issue. In fact, in my testimony, I stated that "I honor and respect the intent of the resolution."

I spoke against the process, not the content of the resolutions. As I testified, the resolutions "put the burden on me, as the IOC representative in the United States, to carry out a foreign policy objective . . . a task for which my position is simply not well suited." As for your statement that the IOC might retaliate if the resolution passed, I never stated that this would be the case.

Quoting from my testimony: "The IOC and the modern Olympic movement can and should be considered an untiring friend in the quest for world peace and recognition of human rights." Let us all continue to work together to achieve these goals.

ANITA L. DEFRAntz  
IOC Executive Board Member  
Los Angeles

Tom Weir's commentary is from *USA Today*. Anita DeFrantz's letter is from the 23 August 1993 issue of *Sports Illustrated*.