

OLYMPIC NEWS

from various sources

Olympism

- On 6 November 1995, the United Nations 50th General Assembly, featured a debate on the resolution “Building a Peaceful and Better World Through Sport.” President Samaranch spoke at this debate. At the end of the debate the General Assembly adopted the resolution, which calls upon member states to observe an Olympic Truce during the Summer and Winter Olympic Games and also commended the IOC for its work in promoting peace and international understanding. The resolution was co-sponsored by 161 countries. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 184, 10 November 1995)
- The IOC has awarded the 1994 Olympic Cup to the City of Lillehammer, the People of Norway, and the Comité National Olympique et Sportif Français (CNOSF). Lillehammer and the Norwegian people were recognized for their organization and hosting of the 17th Olympic Winter Games, while CNOSF was recognized for hosting the Centennial Olympic Congress in Paris in August 1994. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*)
- The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) has announced plans to raise \$7 million for children in war-torn nations. This project, termed Olympic Aid, will be led by Norway's Johann Olav Koss and the United States' Bonnie Blair, both speedskaters. Olympic Aid was started in 1994 in Lillehammer where Koss spearheaded the project. People wishing to contribute to Olympic Aid may call (800)-FOR-KIDS (*USA Today*, 8 November 1995)
- Recent findings concerning the recognizability of the Olympic Symbol confirmed its popularity. In a sample of 7,000 people published in July 1995, 92% of people could identify the symbol. Of those, 93% thought that the Olympic Rings would be recognized all over the world, and 86% believed that the Olympic Rings represented the world's top sporting event. 75% saw the Olympic Rings as a symbol of international cooperation and 69% thought they symbolized a force for world peace. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 182, 20 October 1995)
- On 21 November, the International Federation of National Associations of Olympic Athletes (IFNAOA) was founded in Switzerland. The aim of the Federation is to foster relations between Olympic athletes around the world. Approximately 40 NOCs have their own athletes' commissions or associations. Peter Montgomery of Australia was elected President. The Executive Committee members are as follows: Elizabeth Ferris (GBR), Irena Szewinska (POL); Urs Fankhauser (SUI), Reiner Klimke (GER), Philippe Riboud (FRA), and Bill Toomey (USA). (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 187, 24 November 1995)
- An international symposium on “The Olympic Ceremonies” was held in Lausanne in November 1995, organized by the International Chair of Olympism of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. The proceedings and final conclusions will be

published within the next few months. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 187, 24 November 1995)

- On 28 November 1995, the United Nations Security Council indefinitely suspended the sanctions imposed in May 1992 on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), including all restrictions in the field of sport. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 188, 1 December 1995)
- In late November, Barcelona hosted a symposium entitled "The Olympic Spirit and its Potential for Peace and Security in the Mediterranean Area," which was organized by the International Olof Palme Foundation. The symposium had two major themes: 1) "The Olympic Truce as an Instrument of Peace," and 2) "The Olympic Spirit as a Stabilizing Factor in the Mediterranean Area." (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 188, 1 December 1995)
- The television network CNN International is broadcasting a monthly series of programs entitled "Olympic Updates." These are available to all viewers with access to this network. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 188, 1 December 1995)
- The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) will be organizing a tribute to all the women who have taken part in the Olympics since their first appearance in 1900. The tribute will be part of a multimedia exhibition entitled "Olympic Women" organized as part of the Cultural Olympiad from 23 June to 4 August 1996. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 190, 11 December 1995)
- On 10 December 1995, a church service was held in Much Wenlock, England, to commemorate the centenary of the death of Dr. William Penny Brookes. Brookes was the founder of the Much Wenlock Olympic Games and a strong influence on Pierre de Coubertin's early ideas to restore the Olympic Games. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 190, 11 December 1995)

International Olympic Committee

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and NBC (National Broadcasting Company) agreed on 12 December 1995 to a landmark agreement, granting the United States' rights to televise the Olympic Games of 2004, 2006, and 2008 to NBC, in return for a payment of \$2.3 billion (U.S. dollars). It should be noted that the sites of those three Olympic Games have not yet been awarded. The amount awarded to each Organizing Committee will be as follows: 2004 - \$793 million; 2006 - \$613 million; and 2008 - \$894 million. Coverage will be provided via multiple channel distribution, anchored by telecasts on NBC, but with no pay-per-view telecasts currently planned. After NBC has deducted production costs, the IOC will then receive 50% of any surplus advertising revenue. IOC Executive Board Member Richard Pound commented, "This relationship is a result of a vision shared by both the IOC and NBC: to ensure long-term health and prosperity for the Olympic Movement. Over the past several months we and NBC have been exploring the possibility of using that vision as a foundation for a long-term association. From the beginning, both sides realized that the key component in such a relationship would be trust, a quality each side has in abundance for each other."

The President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NBC, Bob Wright, noted, ‘It is gratifying to know that the IOC feels so confident about NBC’s involvement with the Olympics that it has given us the opportunity to be the television home of the Games into the next millenium.’

The President of NBC Sports, Dick Ebersol, stated, “We consider the Olympic Movement the ultimate celebration of sport and humanity, and the world’s greatest vehicle for goodwill. We are extremely proud of the IOC’s unparalleled expression of trust and respect.” (NBC Television Press Release, 13 December 1995; *Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 190, 11 December 1995)

- The IOC Executive Board met on 25-26 September 1995 in Lausanne. The Board approved a new distribution formula for television rights fees, which would come in to effect beginning with the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad in 2004. Beginning in 2004, the Organizing Committees will receive 49% of the rights fees (currently 60%). The remaining 51% (currently 40%) will be divided among the IOC, the NOCs, and the IFs. This proposal must be approved by the IOC membership at the next session. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 179, 29 September 1995)
- The Executive Board also passed a resolution to promote women’s participation in the administrative levels of sport. It will be proposed to the 105th Session that, by the year 2000, all NOCs, IFs, and National Governing Bodies should set aside a minimum of 10% of their places on the decision-making bodies for women. This percentage should increase to 20% by the year 2005. This proposal must be approved by the IOC membership at the next session. There are currently six women presidents of National Olympic Committees (Fiji, Georgia, Romania, Czech Republic, Tonga, and New Zealand). There are four women presidents of international federations (badminton, equestrian, netball, and orienteering) (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 179, 29 September 1995; and *Olympic Beat: Inside the USOC*, Vo. 10(9), November 1995, p. 9)
- The IOC Medical Commission has announced that it desires all IFs to agree to a maximum penalty of two years’ suspension for athletes testing positive for the first time for any proscribed substances. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 179, 29 September 1995)
- The International Olympic Committee has opened a page on the world-wide-web under the access code, <http://www.olympic.org>. The IOC states that descriptions of the Olympic Movement and its components as well as activities of the Olympic Museum will be available on the information highway via the above address. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 188, 1 December 1995)
- The IOC, in concert with the International Olympic Philately Federation (FIPO) is publishing a philatelic album devoted to the stamps issued to mark its centenary. A second volume will present stamp issues honoring the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 189, 9 December 1995)

International Federations

- Finally, after several years of negotiations, the National Hockey League (NHL) has agreed to a plan to allow North American professional players to compete in the ice hockey tournament at Nagano in 1998. In order for the NHL players to compete, the league will shut down for 16 days of the 1997-1998 season during the Winter Olympics. The first week of the Olympic ice hockey tournament, beginning February 7, will consist of an eight-country preliminary tournament with two teams advancing to the final tournament, where they will be joined by teams from Canada, the United States, Russia, the Czech Republic, Sweden, and Finland, with the main tournament commencing on Friday, 13 February. The NHL will be shut down from 8-24 February. In addition, an Ice Hockey World Cup will be organized for the summer of 1996, basically a resumption of the tournament formerly termed the Canada Cup.
René Fasel, President of IIHF, noted, ‘We reached an agreement so that the best players could be present in Nagano.’ NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman commented, ‘‘This is a great day for hockey. We will be able to see the world’s greatest players on the world’s greatest stage in the Olympics, we will restore the immensely popular Canada Cup, which hockey fans have grown to love, and we will be broadening the scope of competition in Europe. And we have guaranteed that we will have NHL hockey uninterrupted by any labor disputes running in to the 21st century. I think this is a remarkable move forward for hockey and hockey fans.’’ IOC President Samaranch released the following statement, ‘‘The decision to allow NHL professionals to take part in the ice hockey tournament of the XVIIIth Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan in 1998 is a very important one for the Olympic Movement. The Olympic Games are about excellence and for the best athletes of the world. Their participation will increase the prestige of the Olympic Winter Games.’’ (*USA Today*, Associated Press Reports, and *Olympic Beat: Inside the USOC*, Vol. 10(9), November 1995, p. 4.)
- At the 1995 Men’s World Handball Championships in Reykjavik, Iceland, 24 nations competed. The final standings were as follows: 1-France; 2-Croatia; 3-Sweden; 4-Germany; 5-Russia; 6-Egypt; 7-Switzerland; 8-Czechoslovakia. The first seven teams, including an amazing performance by the Egyptian team, thus qualify to compete at the 1996 Olympic Games. Also qualified is the United States as the host country. The remaining four teams will be one each representing the continents of Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, to be determined later. (*SporTime: The Official Magazine of GAISF/Sportel/Sportec*, Vol. 1(3), p. 19, October 1995)
- FILA has announced that wrestling qualification for the 1996 Olympic Games will be determined at the 1996 Continental Championships. (*SporTime: The Official Magazine of GAISF/Sportel/Sportec*, Vol. 1(3), p. 20, October 1995)
- For the 1996 Olympic equestrian events the number of teams competing in the team show jumping event has been increased from 15 to 17. The possibility of a special invitation to South Africa will be considered next year. (*SporTime: The Official Magazine of GAISF/Sportel/Sportec*, Vol. 1(3), p. 20, October 1995)
- The following eight teams will be competing in the 1996 Olympic women’s softball tournament: Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, and the United States. At the 1994 World Championships in

softball, 27 nations competed, including 10 for the first time. When the first ISF Women's World Fast Pitch Championships were held in 1965 in Australia, only five nations competed. (*SporTime: The Official Magazine of GAISF/Sportel/Sportec*, Vol. 1(3), pp. 21 and 47, October 1995)

- The following qualifying teams for the 1996 basketball tournament, based on continental championships, have been announced: Among the men - Yugoslavia, Lithuania, Croatia, and Greece (Europe); and China, and Korea (Asia). The United States as host nation and defending champion will also compete. Five other teams remain to be determined. Among the women the first three finishers from the 1995 European champions have qualified, as follows - The Ukraine (Champion), Italy (runner-up), and Russia (third-place). The United States as host nation will also compete. (*SporTime: The Official Magazine of GAISF/Sportel/Sportec*, Vol. 1(3), p. 33, October 1995)
- Eight teams have qualified for the new team event in synchronized swimming, to be held at the 1996 Olympics. They are as follows: Canada, China, France, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, and the United States. (*SporTime: The Official Magazine of GAISF/Sportel/Sportec*, Vol. 1(3), p. 33, October 1995)
- FIFA will be using women referees for the first time during some of the women's matches in football (soccer) at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. They will also be using a new system in which referees and line judges will be able to communicate electronically during the matches, in order to improve communications between the officials.
- The UIPMB (Union Internationale Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon) has confirmed that the 1996 Olympic modern pentathlon events will be conducted in the new format of contesting all five sports on one day. At the 1995 World Championships in Basel, this format was used. Qualifying was used two days before the main event to determine finalists. On the day after the individual final, the five best men's and women's teams then competed again to decide the team championship. (*SporTime: The Official Magazine of GAISF/Sportel/Sportec*, Vol. 1(3), p. 45, October 1995)
- Fencing is a sport which has struggled with becoming popular and visible on television world-wide, in order to attract marketing dollars and continue to compete on the world sporting stage. Eric Srecki, former French Olympic épée champion, has considered the problem in detail, and offered the following answer, "First, the fencer's face must be visible, or fencing will remain a mystery to the uninitiated. Second, we must wear a transparent mask (approved at the end of 1995) and colored uniforms. Otherwise, spectators and television viewers will not understand the subtleties of the sport, even if we do get rid of the wire attached to the fencer's body."

Another answer is being considered by the Fédération Internationale d'Escrime (FIE). This would be a laser-type system in which the hits would light up an area of the fencer's body upon contact, demonstrating for all to see the point of contact in color.

Multiple other ideas are being considered by FIE. At the 1995 World Championships at The Hague (NED), in the team event, fencers replaced one another after every five hits. FIE President René Roch noted, "In the past, it was whether the individual fencers won or lost that counted towards the team score. Now it is the

actual number of hits. The new formula really develops team spirit. The fencers take one another's place with an eye on the score, which makes for suspense." The new format, which encourages speed, won the approval of IOC President Samaranch, who viewed it at a Swiss tournament in Neuchâtel in April 1995. Roch also detailed other changes being made, "We have recently introduced a direct-elimination system for the individual event, getting rid of the *répêchage*, which always led to delays and confusions. This formula has worked well in other combat sports, so we shall implement it at Sydney for the 2000 Olympics, where I am sure fencing will feature as an individual event. I would also like to see the hit times reduced by 5/100ths in the *épée* and 7/100ths in the foil." (*SporTime: The Official Magazine of GAISF/Sportel/Sportec*, Vol. 1(3), October 1995, p. 77)

- The General Association of International Sports Federations has recently admitted the World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF) and the World Confederation of Billiard Sports (WCBS) and now has 88 members. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 184, 10 November 1995)
- FINA, the swimming federation, recently passed new rules related to doping offenses. Any swimmer testing positive for steroids will now face a four-year penalty, rather than the previous two-year penalty. In addition, all of their previous year's results will be stricken from the record books. In an unusual loophole, swimmers refusing to be tested will face only a two-year ban. (John Powers' Olympics Column, *The Boston Globe*, 3 December 1995, p. 91).

National Olympic Committees

- On 10 October 1995, the Estonian NOC celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of the its first Olympic champion, Alfred Neuland, who won a gold medal for weightlifting at the 1920 Olympics and a silver at the 1924 Olympics. In Valga, Estonia, his birthplace, a commemorative monument was unveiled in a ceremony attended by the NOC President and Secretary-General, Jaan Talts and Arnold Green, respectively. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 182, 20 October 1995)

1920 Olympic Games

- A celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Antwerp Games was recently held in Antwerp. One of the exhibits featured the bust of Hubert Van Innis, the great Belgian fencer, which was temporarily moved from its site in the small village of Elewjit, near Brussels. (from Willy Schoevaerts [BEL])

1972 Olympic Games

- Twenty-three years later, relatives of the 11 Israelis slain at the 1972 München Olympics, have announced a lawsuit for \$26 million (US) against the German authorities. Recently a München district court turned down a claim of culpable negligence against the city of München, the state of Bavaria, and the Federal Republic of Germany, but the 29 relatives are now taking the suit to a higher court in Germany. They are claiming that the deaths of the Israelis at the

Fürstenfeldbruck airport were the result of incompetence on the part of the police. The district court ruled that the claim was too late, that the statute of limitation on this matter had passed in January 1977. However, the relatives' attorney, Papila Hubert, stated, "The police files were not opened until 1992 so it was impossible to make a claim in time." The court also made reference to a settlement of \$1 million (US) paid to the relatives in 1974. The IOC position on this was given by spokeswoman Michèle Verdier, "Security is the responsibility of the host nation's organizing committee. Attacks like this are not the fault of the IOC. It's the way the world is." This September, a memorial to the 11 victims was unveiled in München's Olympic Park, where President of the Israel Olympic Committee, Yoram Oberkovic, said, "The blood of our athletes has stained the Olympic banner for ever. Today, 23 years later, you are settling a moral blame." (*The European*, No. 286, 2-8 November 1995, p. 14)

1984 Olympic Winter Games

- The IOC has agreed to contribute to the rebuilding of sporting facilities in Sarajevo, the site of the XIVth Olympic Winter Games in 1984. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 190, 11 December 1995)

1994 Olympic Winter Games

- The Organizing Committee of the 17th Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer has officially closed its books. The Games cost \$928 million (US) and the Organizing Committee showed a profit of \$63.5 million (US). (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*)

1996 Olympic Games

- As of the 15 November 1995 deadline, 195 NOCs accepted the invitation to compete at the Games of the XXVIth Olympiad in Atlanta in 1996. Only two of the 197 NOCs recognized by the IOC did not accept the invitation prior to the deadline, those being Afghanistan and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North). North Korea boycotted the Olympics of both 1984 and 1988 and their tenuous political relations with the United States may be leading to a *de facto* boycott of the 1996 Olympics as well. Afghanistan was granted an extension and did accept the invitation to compete in early December, stating that their delay in replying was due to communications problems. Thus, 196 of the 197 recognized NOCs can be expected to compete in Atlanta. (*Associated Press* reports, 10 December 1995; *Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 189, 9 December 1995; and No. 190, 18 December 1995; and No. 191, 22 December 1995)
- Atlanta and Olympia, Greece became sister cities on 16 October 1995. The U.S. city, host to the Games of the XXVIth Olympiad in 1996, and the site of the ancient Greek sanctuary where the Olympics began, were united in a brief ceremony in the ruins of the Temple of Hera in Olympia, where the Olympic Flame will be rekindled on 29 March 1996. Representing the cities and their countries at the ceremony were Atlanta mayor Bill Campbell, the American ambassador to Greece, Thomas Niles,

and Giorgios Lianis, Greek under-secretary of state for sport. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 182, 20 October 1995)

- FISA (Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron) has accepted the transfer of the 1996 Olympic rowing events (and canoeing) from Stone Mountain, Georgia to Lake Lanier, about one hour outside of Atlanta. Mike Sweeney, FISA Technical Delegate for the 1996 Olympics, announced that the site fulfills the three main criteria established for the Olympic rowing events: 1) fair and equal conditions for all crews; 2) location close enough to the main Olympic Village to allow the rowers to stay there; and 3) the possibility to use the site after the Games to provide rowing facilities for the region. (*SporTime: The Official Magazine of GAISF/Sportel/Sportec*, Vol. 1(3), p. 33, October 1995)
- ACOG President Billy Payne has announced that the traditional release of pigeons at the opening ceremonies will not take place at Atlanta in 1996, because of the fear of endangering live birds because of the proximity of the Olympic Flame. Payne noted, "We elected not to put at risk any of these animals. We also thought that the best way to do it was a little bit more theatrically and a little bit more symbolically." Payne gave no details of the ceremonial release but said no one will miss it, "It will be obvious in at least one place that we have symbolically released doves. It will be very apparent and very obvious and you won't need to look for it." (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 189, 9 December 1995)

1998 Olympic Winter Games

- On 17 November, officials from the Nagano Organizing Committee approved a resolution to place snowboarding on the 1998 Olympic program. Four snowboarding events are planned - men's and women's giant slalom, and men's and women's half-pipes. The decision was ratified by the IOC Executive Board which met from 4-7 December in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture. Snowboarding will be the third new medal sport at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games, along with curling and women's ice hockey. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 184, 10 November 1995; No. 187, 24 November 1995; No. 189, 9 December 1995; Associated Press Reports, 19 November 1995)
- Just prior to the XVIII Olympic Winter Games, Nagano will host the 107th Session of the IOC, marking the 8th time that a session will be held on the Asian Continent. As for individual cities, Lausanne has hosted the most sessions with 10, followed by Paris with 9, and Athens with 6. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 189, 9 December 1995)

2000 Olympic Games

- On 15 October 1995, the first International Triathlon Union (ITU) World Cup race ever conducted in Australia began in front of the Sydney Opera House. Phillip Walter Coles, IOC Member in Australia and ITU Secretary-General, noted that the triathlon would be first sport that the world would see at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 182, 20 October 1995)

2004 Olympic Games

- At this writing it has been announced that 11 cities intend to bid for the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad in 2004, as follows: Athens, Greece; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Istanbul, Turkey; Lille, France; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Rome, Italy; St. Petersburg, Russia; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Seville, Spain; and Stockholm, Sweden. (*Various editions of Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*)
- In September 1995, Beijing played host to the Fourth World Conference on Women. During that conference, many rumors circulated about Beijing's possible bid to host the 2004 Olympics, and also its suitability to do so, based on its handling of the Women's Conference. U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala stated that the Chinese "will never get another international event again." But IOC Member Anita DeFrantz (USA) contradicted that statement somewhat, stating that "China has been getting a bum rap for its handling of the conference." Jennifer Jordan of ACOG was also on the Chinese side, saying, "There's no doubt in my mind (the Chinese) could handle an Olympics. Should they? That's up to the IOC." [*USA Today*, 11 September 1995, p. 5A]
- In September 1995, the city council of Lyon, led by Mayor Raymond Barre, agreed to be the city presenting a bid for the 2004 Olympic Games. The bid was officially presented to the French Olympic Committee (CNOSF) by Jean-Claude Killy, IOC Member and three-time Olympic alpine skiing gold medalist. However, CNOSF decided on 7 November 1995 that Lille would be the French bid city for the 2004 Olympics.
- In late September, the Italian Senate approved a motion which granted formal support for the Rome bid for the 2004 Olympic Games. Formal governmental support was announced on 9 November, and the bid was submitted officially in Lausanne on 27 November. Milan officials, which had hoped to be the Italian bid city for 2004, called for the resignation of leading officials of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) after they had decided to support the Rome bid. Rome received strong verbal support recently from President Samaranch, who was quoted in *Track & Field News*, as saying, "Rome can consider itself one of the most important candidacies the IOC has so far received." Also noted were the very close ties Samaranch has with Primo Nebiolo, President of the IAAF. Nebiolo commented on the bid, "I don't make the decision but I have many friends." (*The European, USA Today, Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 188, 1 December 1995; and *Track & Field News*, Vol. 49(1): p. 68, January 1996)
- At the inauguration of the Turkish Olympic Committee's new headquarters in October, the Turkish Head of State, Suleyman Demirel, personally handed IOC President Samaranch a letter confirming the Istanbul bid to host the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad. The new "Olympic House" is in the Atakoy district (on the outskirts of Istanbul) where the Olympic Village would be built. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 182, 20 October 1995)
- Seville, Spain has formed a permanent bid committee in its attempt to host the 2004 Olympic Games. The committee is led by the President of the Spanish NOC and IOC Member, Carlos Ferrer Salat. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 182, 20 October 1995)

- Stockholm, Sweden has also secured the approval of the Swedish Olympic Committee for its bid for the 2004 Olympic Games. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 184, 10 November 1995)
- Philip Walter Coles, IOC Member to Australia, recently stated that Europe needs to make a united front to bring further Olympic Games to the continent. Current bids for Olympic Games often see two or three European nations bidding for the same Olympic Games and dividing the European votes. (*The European*, No. 287, 9-15 November 1995, p. 14)
- The candidacy of San Juan, Puerto Rico for the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad in 2004 was officially presented to the IOC at a ceremony in Lausanne on 9 December 1995. Candidate bids from Buenos Aires, Argentina and Rome, Italy were also officially presented to the IOC in Lausanne in December 1995. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 187, 24 November 1995)

2006 Olympic Winter Games

- The Italian city of Tarvisio has again expressed an interest in bidding for the Olympic Winter Games, this time for 2006. Tarvisio was a candidate for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, but was eliminated in January 1995 by the IOC Evaluation Committee.
- The Swiss cities of Sion and Interlaken have both expressed interest in making a bid for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. The Swiss Olympic Committee was to make the decision as to which city they would support on 27 April 1996, but in late December it was announced that the Swiss Olympic Committee has unanimously supported the bid of Sion as its candidate for 2006. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 188, 1 December 1995; and No. 191, 22 December 1995)

2008 Olympic Games

- Greece is apparently making plans to bid for the 2008 Olympic Games. There was even a groundswell of interest to make a last minute bid for the 2004 Olympics, after a recent visit to Athens by IOC President Samaranch. Wisely, the Greek authorities decided against that move. "I believe the most sensible thing to do is to put forward an official bid for the 2008 Olympics because the IOC has made it clear that the selection of the 2004 Games will follow normal procedure. meaning that we have no chance to win the sympathy of IOC members. Having said that, as the years go by, our chances of hosting the Games become even slimmer," according to Giorgios Liveris, press spokesman for the Hellenic Olympic Committee. Vasilios Papageorgopoulos, ex-minister of culture, noted, "Asking to host the Games purely for historical reasons is unacceptable."
- Dionissios Gangas, Secretary-General of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, also commented, "For the Greek nation, but in particular for those who worked for the committee that put forward the bid for the 1996 Olympic Games, being rejected is still a bitter memory. The decision of the IOC to deprive the resurrector of the Games of the right to celebrate the centenary of the modern Olympic Movement is

considered, even today, an unjust and unconventional decision. But we have to take our fair share of the blame as well. Our lack of any professional campaign, our failure to approach, in a persuasive manner, the majority of the IOC Members and teach them a history lesson, and our inability to present appropriately Athen's sports facilities and infrastructure were some of the reasons that helped our friends from Atlanta win the Games - and the chance to celebrate 100 years of the Olympic Movement. . . . In reality, though, if Athens wants the Olympic Games, it has to fight for them on equal terms." (*The European*, No. 288, 16-22 November 1995, p. 16)

2020 Olympic Games

- Amazingly enough, Malaysia has already expressed interest in bidding on the 2020 Olympic Games. This should give them adequate time to prepare. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 184, 10 November 1995)