

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

This message will be of profound happiness and of sorrow! Two completely controversial items occurred in the past period, which made it thus.

Before and during the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, I had been in contact with Mr. Osamu Yamashita, a fine man, who acted as Deputy Director General, Liaison for the NAOC. After the Winter Games, he decided to become a member of ISOH, but first went on a well deserved holiday ISOH member Bob Miyakawa later reported to me that Mr. Yamashita came back from his holiday and immediately was taken to a hospital for medical research.

He never recovered. He suffered from a tumor of the brain and died last June.

Although his application form for ISOH was never returned to me, his membership was almost fact and he himself, wished that so much. Through Bob Miyakawa, I wrote a letter of condolence to Mrs. Nobuko Yamashita. She recently replied to me that "Osamu Yamashita would have been proud and privileged to have been a member of the ISOH".

From the one side of the scale, it is but a short step to the other side.

The meeting of the ISOH Executive Committee in Lausanne was a huge success! The meeting, with an agenda of "but" 18 points, had to be organized over two days and took place in the Olympic Museum.

Many points were discussed at length.

Mr. Fékrou Kidane, Director of the Executive Office of the IOC and member of the ISOH Executive Committee, in spite of a very heavy itinerary, took part in the meeting on the first day. The next day, he was to fly to Lisbon to attend the World Exposition there.

Some of the important points, which could already be decided on, were:

ISOH to appoint a member to the Advisory Board for the IOC Study Centre. The Executive Committee will approach possible candidates later this year.

ISOH offered the IOC assistance in all matters pertaining Olympic history, including historical aspects of planned exhibitions in the Olympic Museum.

An ISOH commission was appointed to study sev-

eral Olympic historical question-points, like for instance which events in the 1900 and 1904 Games should be considered to be Olympic; the status of the 1906 Intercalary Games; and should report about some still undecided Olympic controversies.

The commission consists of: Prof.Dr. Karl Lennartz (GER); Dr. Bill Mallon (USA); and David Wallechinsky (USA). The commission will report back to the Executive Committee.

A plan is being developed for starting a project on writing down "Oral History" of the Olympic Games, throughout all NOC's. A questionnaire will be drafted, which will form the basis for this project.

It is the intention in 1999 to start with the introduction of the new European currency the "Euro" into the ISOH accounts. This was found to be necessary, as it became more difficult for European members to pay their dues in dollars via European banks. The transfer costs of the American Bank are outrageously high compared to the amounts paid into the account.

A project is being studied, which concerns the organizing of an Olympic Historical Congress, in conjunction with the International Olympic Academy in Greece, as part of the preparations for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Many more points were discussed in detail, but several of these still need to be worked on, and they will be reported on in a later issue of this Journal.

This particular issue again contains some very fine and interesting articles. As editor, I am proud to say that the quality of the articles is improving, while more articles are arriving as ever before.

If your own article has not been published yet, don't give up. It will be in one of our next issues!

Finally, article Five of the ISOH Constitution contains one sentence as follows:

"Failure to pay dues for two consecutive years will result in revocation of membership!"

In the Information about our Members in this issue, all of you can read the names of former members who had to be deleted because of their neglect to pay in time, or at all!

Don't let it happen to you!

Did you already pay for 1998? NO? Then do it now!

Anthony Th. Bijkerk
Secretary-General