Around the National Olympic Committees

Saudi Arabia

- Mr. Othman Mohamed Al-Saad, who was born on 26th September 1939, will be responsible for the General Secretariat of the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee until 1979. After graduating in physical education, he went to the United States of America to study sports administration. On his return to Riyadh, he turned his attention to youth welfare. Secretary General of the national federation of basketball—his favourite sport—and then of football, he was a member of the NOC, then Assistant Secretary General, before acceding this year to the position of Secretary General.

In addition he fulfils the role of Secretary General of the Pan-Arabian Games Federation.

Australia

- Mr. Julius Patching has just been re-elected Secretary General of the Australian Olympic Federation. Born on 4th January 1917, he joined the Royal Australian Navy where he practised a wide range of sports and was so keen that he was put in charge of the Physion Department. Currently super of recreation for the City of he is involved with a great many isations. On six occasions between 1956 and 1976 he was an official with varying functions at the Olympic Games and particularly chef de mission of the Australian delegations in 1968 and 1972.

- Mr. Sydney Grange, President of the Australian Olympic Federation, has very generously given the IOC for its collection one of the Olympic torches used at the Games celebrating the XVIth Olympiad in 1956 in Melbourne. May we extend our deep gratitude to him.

- Football henceforth appears among the sports affiliated to the Australian Olympic Federation, which brings the number of these sports to 23.

Austria

- The Vth European Sports Youth Conference, open to all private and public sports institutions, will take place from 25th to 28th May 1978 in Austria. All details can be obtained from the Secretary General of the Organising Committee, Mr. Helmar Hasenöhrl, Haus des Sports, Prinz Eugen Strasse 12, 1040 Vienna; tel: 0222/65.37.42.

Bahamas

- The Olympic movement in the Bahamas will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of its foundation from 26th to 29th November 1977. For this occasion, Lord Killanin, President of the IOC, has sent Mr. Arlington G. Butler, President of the Bahamas Olympic Association, all good wishes for the success of this commemoration on behalf of the IOC.
Bermuda

Mrs. Joan Taplin (opposite), having acceded to the presidency of the Bermuda Equestrian Association, has become the first woman to join the Bermuda Olympic Association since its creation in 1936.

Colombia

- The town of Neiva will host the XIth National Colombian Games from 5th to 19th May 1978. A stadium for 15,000 spectators, sports hall and swimming pool are being constructed to ensure the success of this traditional amateur sports and youth festival, which should unite 3,500 participants in 13 sports.

Egypt

- Mr. Abdelaziz Elshafei, Secretary General of the Egyptian Olympic Committee since 1971, has just been nominated President of the Egyptian Sports Association with ministerial rank. We send him our sincere congratulations.

United States of America

- Following a two-day meeting held at the end of September in Colorado Springs, the United States Olympic Committee designated Los Angeles (by 55 votes to 39 for the City of New York) as its official candidate to stage the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad to be held in 1984.

- The committee for sports medicine is one of the new committees recently established since the United States had never had a centralised committee of doctors to work in this area. USOC President, Mr. Robert J. Kane, has appointed Dr. Irving Darkik, a prominent cardio-vascular surgeon, to head this group. The co-ordinated USOC sports medicine programme involves the sports medicine specialist working in close co-operation with the athletes at the national training centres. The USOC will make an investment of almost two million dollars in its sports medicine programme during the next three years. Special testing equipment has been installed in the national training centres to assist in the evaluation of six medically related areas:
  - Biomechanics: to help improve the athletes’ sports skills and techniques.
  - Nutrition: to identify the best diets for competing athletes.
  - Exercise physiology: to spotlight more beneficial training programmes for individual athletes.
  - Sports psychology: to instil better self-discipline in the athlete.
  - Establishment of a more co-ordinated approach for the treatment of injuries, as well as preventive measures.
  - In the area of research the committee will cover a wide spectrum of subjects including the effects (if any) of blood doping, the effects of anabolic steroids on the development of physical characteristics, and a number of related areas which have not been studied in the United States from the point of view of the Olympic athlete.
The present organisation is comprised of four central sports associations operating in Finland and the national Olympic federations. The General Meeting of the Finnish Olympic Committee is held quadrennially when it elects the Council for a four-year period. The 80 members of the Council, which includes the IOC members in Finland as ex officio members, represent the above-mentioned organisations and the Ministry of Education.

The Council elects from among its members the Finnish Olympic Committee’s Administrative Board of 25 members.

The current President of the Finnish Olympic Committee is Mr. Jukka Uunila who took up office in 1969, thus becoming the 10th President. The President of Finland, Mr. Urho Kekkonen, was the fourth President from 1937 to 1946. Finnish athletes participated in the Olympic Games for the first time in 1908 in London, though they also took part in the 1906 Intermediary Games in Athens.

The first Finnish Olympic medallist was the wrestler Werner Weckman. On this occasion, the Russian flag was hoisted to mark his victory; Finland became independent on 6th December 1917. The celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Finnish Olympic Committee will thus almost coincide with Finland’s 60th anniversary.

Since 1908, Finland has participated in all Olympiad celebrations. Our capital, Helsinki, had the special honour of organising the XIIth Olympic Games in 1952. Many experts in Olympic sports still fervently remember these Games in Helsinki.

Our athletes have won the following medals at the Olympic Games:

- **Olympic Games:** gold medals, 90; silver medals, 72; bronze medals, 100.
- **Winter Games:** gold medals, 24; silver medals, 34; bronze medals, 23.

Thus Finland has gained 343 medals all together.

The Finnish Olympic Committee will celebrate its anniversary on 4th December 1977 by a special reception organised at the Olympic stadium in Helsinki, in the Sports Museum, among the Olympic souvenirs.”

Mr. Paavo Honkajuuri, IOC member in Finland, represented the President of the IOC at the VIth International Seminar on Sports and Leisure, organised at Aulanko (FIN) from 23rd to 26th August 1977 by the “Sports and Recreation” Working Group of the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the International Working Group for the Construction of Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS). We shall give details of the discussions in our next issue.

India

The first Indian National Games, to be organised by the Indian Olympic Association in order to promote the Olympic movement, will take place from 25th to 31st December 1977 in the city of Hyderabad in the State of Andhra Pradesh, situated about 1,600 km south of New Delhi. Nine sports will feature on the programme: athletics, cycling, gymnastics, weightlifting, handball, judo, wrestling, archery and volleyball.

These Games will be held every other year. Other national federations (basketball, football, hockey, etc.) are also being approached with a view to their participation in the second Games in 1979.

Jamaica

Mr. Tony Bridge, IOC member since 1973, did not seek re-election to the presidency of the Jamaica Olympic Association. After twenty years in charge of Olympic activities in his country, he preferred to stand down in order to devote more time to his many international responsibilities.

Mr. Michael S. Fennell, his successor, tells
us in his letter that he will often be calling on the experience and knowledge of his predecessor.

- **New Board of the Jamaica Olympic Association**
  
  *PT:* Mr. Michael S. Fennell; *VPT:* Mr. Keith Matthew Beaubrum; *SG:* Miss Leila Robinson; *T:* Mrs. Nellie Reid.

- **New postal address of the JOA**
  P.O. Box 544, Kingston 10, Jamaica.

**Mali**

- **Mr. Cheick Kouyate,** Secretary General of the Mali Olympic Committee since 1968 and who has attended every meeting of the IOC Executive Board with the representatives of the NOCs since then, has just been nominated Knight in the National Order by his government. The *Olympic Review* heartily congratulates him.

**Panama**

- We have received No. 1 of *“Pana/Olimpica”*, the half-yearly review of the Panama Olympic Committee. From the very varied contents, let us mention the editorial of the President of the NOC, Colonel Rodrigo Ramirez, the presentation of the NOC’s members, the report of the Olympic week organised in 1976, a study of Panama’s participation in both the Pan-American Games and Olympic Games, a tribute to Avery Brundage, etc.

**Kuwait**

- The NOC is planning to celebrate *Olympic day* in Kuwait in the first week of January each year.

**Norway**

- **The Norwegian Football Federation** was founded 75 years ago by 14 delegates from three clubs. Since the last day of April 1902 this game has become the most popular in Norway with more than 1500 clubs and some 420,000 members.

**Puerto Rico**

- A Sports Medicine Congress on 27th August 1977 assembled 175 people in San Juan as part of the 2nd Sports Symposium organised by the Puerto Rican Olympic Committee. Mr. German Rieckehoff, IOC member and President of the NOC, tells us: “In the morning we had scientific presentations, and in the afternoon the sports medicine development plan for Puerto Rico. The Congress was held under the direction of Dr. Dwight Santiago Pérez, a bright young doctor whom the Puerto Rican Olympic Committee has sent to sports medicine courses in Mexico, USA and Italy, taking advantage of the Olympic Solidarity programme.”

**Republic of China**

- **New Board of the Republic of China Olympic Committee** for 1977-1981:
  
  *PT:* Mr. Shen Chia-ming; *VPT:* Mr. Lawrence S. Ting; *Ms:* Messrs. Henry H. Hsu, IOC member, Wang Tih-wu, Penney Tung, Jerome Sinnan Hu, Wu Wen-chung, Haige Ming-chu Mao, Sung Shih-suan, Chow Ho-ming, Lin Hon-tan, Yu Chi-chung, Chou Chung-hsun.
The Secretary General of the athletics federation affiliated to the ROC is none other than Miss Chi Cheng (aged 33), whose outstanding athletics career came to an end in 1975 following an accident. No one can forget her third place in the 80 m hurdles at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico, and her world records for 100 m and 200 m sprint, and 100 m hurdles.

Sweden

As of 15th December 1977, the address of the Swedish Olympic Committee will be as follows:

Sveriges Olympiska Kommitté
Idrottens Hus
123 87 Farsta
Tel: 08 /93.05.00
Telex: 120 43 Sport.

Czechoslovakia

The 4th Congress of the International Sports Psychology Society was held in Prague from 4th to 8th October, attended by about 400 participants from 30 countries who studied school and pre-school physical education and sport for handicapped or disturbed children.

USSR

The Central Lenin Stadium, future Olympic stadium in 1980, is already twenty years old. Situated on the Moskova, in the old quarter of Loujniki, it is one of the USSR’s most important sports complexes. Competitions in 46 sports can be presented, and 160,000 spectators can watch them simultaneously. From now until 1980, it will be improved and renovated.

Venezuela

Basketball is first on the list of national sports, ahead of cycling and baseball.