



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Historical Archives
Olympic Studies Centre

Olympic Solidarity (OS) Commission

Fonds list

Overview of the content of the archives concerning the history, missions and activities of the Commission from 1961 to 1989

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Reference: CH CIO-AH B-ID04-SO

Dates: 1961-1989

Level of description: Sub-series

Extent and medium: 1 l.m. Text documents.

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Administrative history / Biographical history¹

The history of "Olympic Solidarity" goes back to the 1960s, when, in 1961, during the 59th IOC Session in Athens, Comte Jean de Beaumont underlined the "urgent need for the IOC to provide the new countries of Africa and Asia with some form of financial assistance". With this in mind, he proposed appointing an international aid commission, composed of six members, and of which he became the first Chairman.

During the following IOC Session in Moscow in 1962, Beaumont announced that this commission had been named the International Olympic Aid Committee (IOAC)². A full report, addressing, in particular, the needs of the new countries, was then presented during the 61st IOC Session in Baden-Baden in 1963. The members, although opposed to providing subsidies to the new countries because of a lack of funds, did accept Sir Arthur Porritt's proposal to appoint a "special ad-hoc commission" to examine the feasibility and follow-up of the actions proposed in the report.

In 1964, at the Tokyo Session, further to a proposal by Constantin Andrianov, a sub-committee of five members was appointed to take up and continue the activities of the International Olympic Aid Committee, in the form of administrative assistance to the newly created National Olympic Committees (NOCs).

Following the same line as these initial initiatives and activities, coordination with the NOCs continued to intensify during the second half of the 1960s. At the 66th IOC Session in Tehran in 1967, the Management and Coordination Commission was created to this end. Under the aegis of this Commission, a new Commission to provide financial aid and other forms of assistance was created at the 68th IOC Session in Mexico City in 1968. After two years of activity, its work was interrupted (lack of means) after the Executive Board (EB) meeting in Amsterdam in 1970.

In parallel, the end of the decade also coincided with various initiatives on an NOC level, including the foundation of the International Institute for NOCs' Development (29 April 1969). This Institute was responsible for implementing the technical and sports assistance projects of the Permanent General Assembly of NOCs, in the framework of "Olympic Solidarity", and for fostering any initiative capable of contributing to the progress of NOCs.³

It was in this spirit that, in 1971 in Munich, Herman A. van Karnebeek submitted a proposal to the EB to create an "Olympic Solidarity Committee". At the 71st Session in Luxembourg in the same year, the former aid commission was disbanded. An ad-hoc commission, comprising the three Vice-Presidents (Herman van Karnebeek, Lord Killanin and the Comte de Beaumont), was created in order to study the matter of Olympic Solidarity.

In their report to the EB, and during the 1972 Session in Sapporo, the three Vice-Presidents proposed creating, after the Munich Olympic Games, an IOC organisation, whose title could be "Olympic Foundation for Assistance to the NOCs", aimed, in particular, at sharing out television rights revenue among the NOCs. The details of a future solidarity programme, taking the NOCs' wishes into account, were set out and discussed during the following Session in Munich.

¹ See also: *The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years: 1894-1994: the Idea, the Presidents, the Achievements*, vol. 2, Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1995, p. 148-149.

² The word "Committee" seems to appear only on this occasion. Indeed, in the minutes of the Sessions in following years, its work always appears under the title "International Aid Commission".

³ C.f. 1894-1994, *The International Olympic Committee – One Hundred Years*, op. cit., p. 149.



Following all these studies, the EB approved, in a decision dated 4 February 1972, an Olympic Solidarity project, to be jointly organised by the IOC and the NOCs, and in collaboration with the International Federations (IFs). Under the general management of the IOC President, the three IOC Vice-Presidents and the NOC Coordinator (Giulio Onesti) assumed full responsibility for this project. An IOC mixed Commission for "Olympic Solidarity" (composed of 20 members from the IOC and the NOCs, and taking continental representation into account) was created, as was a special department responsible for Olympic Solidarity⁴.

The first meeting of the Commission for Olympic Solidarity took place in Varna on 26 September 1973, under the chairmanship of Herman van Karnebeek. Its initial missions, as stated by the Commission, were the following⁵:

- To study the requests for and offers of assistance presented by the NOCs
- To develop the framework of the action programmes
- To propose priorities
- To estimate the cost and sharing out of measures undertaken
- To present an annual activity report

Since 1973, the Commission for Olympic Solidarity has met regularly, one to several times per year until 1981, then once a year from 1982 onwards, always with the aim of promoting the Olympic Movement by organising classes, courses and seminars, encouraging better relations between coaches and technicians, helping NOCs with the organisation of their administration, and awarding exceptional assistance (especially in the framework of the Olympic Games).

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The sub-series arrived at the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The sub-series deals with the meetings of the International Aid Commission, then the Aid Commission, then the Commission for Olympic Solidarity. It shows the nomination of Commission members, discussions and decisions related to the financial assistance, courses, classes and seminars offered to the Olympic family (National Olympic Committees and International Federations, in particular).

The sub-series contain documents linked to meetings, such as minutes, roll calls, working documents, several reports, and correspondence concerning the organisation of meetings and of the Commission.

The sub-series also contain copies of minutes for conservation (complete collection) and copies of minutes for reproduction (incomplete collection).

Accruals

Yes

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are in French, English and Spanish.

Related units of description

⁴ Refer to the fonds sheet on "The Olympic Solidarity Department".

⁵ Minutes of the meeting of the Commission for Olympic Solidarity, Varna, 29 September 1973.



Internal sources

- Olympic Solidarity Department – 1971-1988: F-A02-SO
- Associations of National Olympic Committees (by continent): CNO-AASS
- IOC Sessions: B-ID01
- IOC Executive Board meetings : B-ID02
- Management and Coordination Commission – 1967-1970 : B-ID04-xxxxx
- Working Group on aid to NOCs for attending the Games – 1982-1984 : B-ID04-GTCNO

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic designations, is the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

5 February 2010