

TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN GAMES

Gentlemen:

I should like to present to you my warmest respects at this time in which we have the honor to submit for your consideration the present proposal for your approbation, destined for the winter of 1978-79, the aim of which is to establish definitively the celebration, every four years, of

THE WHITE (or WINTER) GAMES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN organized in such a manner as to alternate among the various countries having facilities for these sports.

Although this idea may appear unusual, or even surprising, at first view, a careful study of the Mediterranean countries in possession of teams and athletes for winter sports, and the enormous possibilities for expanding these activities in the near future, keeping in mind that snow and ice sports are advancing rapidly throughout the world owing to the more rapid means of communication and the progressive development of mountain resorts, gives rise to the hope that these Winter Games of the Mediterranean will have an assured future, and in addition will prove an interesting experiment allowing new nations to prepare for their access to the general Winter Olympics.

The example of Spain, which, if you gentlemen of the Committee approve the initiation, is disposed to sollicit the organization of the first celebration, is, we believe, a confirmation of our convictions. Although winter sports perhaps seem hardly appropriate to a country such as ours,



with its sun, climat, and beaches, they are acquiring here an increasingly greater importance. We have at this moment twenty-two ski ressorts, spread throughout our geography, from the Pyrenees in the north to the center and the south. Various of these are excellently equipped and receive important ski competitions. A concrete example of this is Bequeira Beret, in the Valley of Aran (Valle de Aran), which is one of the ski stations which hopes to host the Winter Games of the Mediterranean, if they are approved, where there will be held a meet next month which figures in the Professional World Championship of Ski (parallel slalom) -- the only held in Europe, the other eleven events of this championship taking place in the United States. The Sierra Nevada station, in the south of Spain and near Granada, which is another possible candidate for the Winter Mediterranean Games, is the organizer for the final tests (Giant and Parallel) for the World Cup (International Federation of Ski) taking place in the month of March.

As for ice sports, during the past three years Spain has had a hockey league of ten teams, who compete on eleven artificial rinks here in our country, nine of which are 60 by 30 meters; in other words, of absolutely reglementary dimensions.

Thus we are of the conviction that our country is perfectly prepared to realize in 1979, if the initiation is approved and the competition is awarded us, the FIRST WINTER OLYMPICS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.

As for the future of these games, we foresee no difficulties. There are great winter sports countries, leaders in world competition such as Italy and France, as well as Yugoslavia, and where these sports are in



constant expansion, and which possess numerous and well-equipped resorts, who would undoubtedly be interested in hosting such a competition. There are other nations, such as Monaco, which has magnificently beautiful and centrally located resorts, centers in French territory, in the Maritime Alps, in Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Morocco, all of whom, if first the more developed countries organize, have good possibilities of becoming, within the space of 16 years, organizers of future Olympics; all of which without taking into consideration the interesting eventuality that, given the international character of winter sports and their touristic incidence in the Mediterranean countries, one of the Austrian, Swiss, or German centers should offer itself as seat of the competitions in the event that at a given time no Mediterranean country presents itself. A small nation in the Pyrenees, Andorra, which enjoys a "statu quo" equivalent to that of Monaco and which possesses ski centers very near its capital, "Andorra la Vella", would be likewise willing in its time to present its candidature as seat of the games.

In all events we are assured that there will be no need for this eventuality, and that Spain, France, Italy, and Yugoslāvia are, in principal, capable of alternating among themselves in organizing the games, even in the unlikely event that no other Mediterranean country presents its candidature for the future.

Having made this presentation of the fundamental idea, we adjoin herewith a schematic outline of the possible participating countries in the first celebration of these games -- twelve or thirteen Mediterranean countries which we have confirmed have qualified athletes in winter sports, together with a preview in which there is



projected a programme of specialties and competitions covering a period of nine days, as well as a brief study, accompanied with photos, plans, and brochures, of the Valley of Aran in the Spanish Pyrenees, a site easily accessible either from Barcelona or from the French city of Toulouse, which are the two nearest airports.

The presentation of this ressort-candidate is made with the intention of introducing the idea of a winter sports center in Spain, excellently equipped and prepared for such an organization. But there exist naturally others, such as Sierra Nevada, El Formigal-Jaca, etc., equally suitable, and if the Committee of the Mediterranean Games approves the proposal and the celebration of the first games in Spain, the election of the most adequate center will naturally be incumbent upon our National Delegation of Sports, once the candidates are registered.

It remains for me to underscore that, in order that the theory become reality, the enthusiastic support of such important countries in winter sports such as France, Italy, and Yugoslavia is necessary, together with the full participation of their teams and athletes in all fields. Together with Spain, which will contribute such support, these countries will represent an important block of athletes of the highest caliber, for there are in France, Italy, and Spain various gold, silver, and bronze medals from the World Olympics. The success of these games is likewise dependent on the full support of the respective committees and federations of Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Marroco, Monaco, Algeria, Malta, and



whatever other Mediterranean country which has athletes in winter sports, even though these athletes, as is often the case, compete abroad.

Finally, I should like to say to you, before entering in the discussions of this theme, that in a study together with the Presidents of the International Federation of Ski, and the International Federations of Ice Hockey and Skating, who are concerned in this event and who demonstrated their satisfaction with the proposal, it was suggested by them that, in order to avoid conflicts with other international competitions, the games take place during the first ten days of March, 1979, a time of year, furthermore, that is ideal in Spain insofar as the snow and climatic conditions that will contribute to the success of the celebration.

I thank you cordially for the attention you have accorded us, and remain entirely at your disposition to answer whatever question or furnish whatever clarification you may desire.

Spit (Yugoslavia), November, 1976



THE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

The following is a preliminary list of the possible participants.

FRANCE:	Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski, Ice Hockey, Figure Skating
ITALY:	Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski, Ice Hockey, Figure Skating
YUGOSLAVIA:	Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski, Ice Hockey, Figure Skating
SPAIN:	Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski, Ice Hockey, Figure Skating
TURKEY:	Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski
MONACO:	Alpine Ski, Figure Skating
LEBANON:	Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski
GREECE:	Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski
MALTA:	Alpine Ski
MARROCO:	Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski
ALGERIA:	Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski
SYRIA:	Alpine Ski
SAN MARINO:	Alpine Ski



A PROGRAMME FOR NINE DAYS

	<u>NORDIC</u>	<u>ALPINE</u>	<u>FIGURE SKATING</u>	<u>ICE HOCKEY</u>
SATURDAY	OPENING CEREMONY		SPAIN - FRANCE
SUNDAY	10 km. H.	Giant F.	Oblig. Figures M.	ITALY - YUGOSLAVIA
MONDAY	5 km. F.	Giant M.	Oblig. H.	FRANCE - YUGOSLAVIA
TUESDAY	15 km. M.	Special F.	Danse F.	ITALY - SPAIN
WEDNESDAY	3 km. F.	Special M.	Danse M.	ITALY - FRANCE
THURSDAY	30 dm. M.	Non-Stop F.	Free Skating	SPAIN - YUGOSLAVIA
FRIDAY	Relays F. 3 X 10	Downhill F. Non-stop M	Free Skating	FINAL 3 and 4
SATURDAY	Relays M.	Downhill M.	Couples	Final 1 and 2
SUNDAY	Jumps	FINAL CEREMONY	



A SITE THAT CAN HOST THE FIRST WINTER OLYMPIQUES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Valley of Aran (Valle de Aran), rapidly expanding in winter sports, seems the ideal site for the celebrations in the winter of 1978-79. February, 1979, is possibly the most suitable time for the first games.

The author of this study, who is very familiar with the site and the requirements of the event, has already made some preliminary investigations, and the resulting impression is that one can count on the enthusiastic collaboration of the municipality of the region, as well as that of the enterprises who have developed the two ski resorts already in existence there: Baqueira-Beret, and La Tuca.

Generally speaking, the installations basic for Alpine and Nordic ski tests are already in existence, as well as the down-hill and slalom slopes. Important international events have already been held here, and everything has operated smoothly.

As for Nordic ski, if jumping events are to be held, a trampoline will have to be constructed, as well as the ceremonial grounds. The plans of the Committee for Jumping events of the Spanish Ski Federation already have projected this installation, which only has to be accelerated.

Insofar as the skating competitions, an ice rink will have to be constructed, an installation that is vitally needed in the valley, and that will contribute greatly to the encouragement of this sport.

The municipality of Viella has an excellently situated athletic zone, located behind the Juan March school, in which the construction of a classic-type sports stadium is foreseen. This construction has been suspended because,



as the author of this report has been given to understand, with the necessary assistance this construction can be converted, without excessive expenditure, into a regulation (60 X 30 meter) ice rink, which would be of great interest for future events. This is one of the aids which the Mediterranean Olympics should obtain from the National Delegation of Sports; i.e., state assistance.

Insofar as the lodging of the directors and participants, assuming an assembly of the Mediterranean Olympics which would number from 700 to 1,000 participants -- including directors, athletes, newsmen, judges, technicians and organizers -- the facilities are now sufficient, and will be even more so in the future.

There will be there already by this summer two five-star hotels, one of them - the "Montardo" - at the foot of the Baqueira slopes and the other - the "Tuca" - at the foot of the slopes of the same name.

The development and numerous construction plans of the Valley of Aran permits likewise the envisagement of a suitable formula for the construction of an Olympic Village on the basis of one or two apartment buildings, which can be immediately after -- or even before -- the celebrations sold.

Insofar as medias of communication are concerned, the acceleration of those plans which are already projected, or which are now in operation, is of great interest, and without doubt the celebration of the Winter Olympics of the Mediterranean will accelerate them.

Telecommunications have already seen a great advance, and at their current rate of progress, in 1979 there should be no problem whatever in television, radio, or press transmissions.



SCENES OF COMPETITION
IN THE VALLEY OF ARAN

BASIN	Plain of Beret	
DOWN-HILL	Olympic Slope "Luis Arias	Baqueira Beret
GIANT	Slalom Stadium	Baqueira Beret
SPECIAL	La Tuca	Tuca
ICE HOCKEY	Ice Rink	Viella
JUMPS	Baqueira Trampoline	Baqueira Beret
CEREMONIES	Ceremonial Grounds in the Monolithic Arena "Luis Arias"	
RESERVE		
SLOPES	Glaciar de la Maladetta (where a ski station is projected)	

