



COMITÉ
INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIQUE

Historical Archives
Olympic Studies Centre

Press Commission

Fonds list

Overview of the content of the archives concerning the history, missions and activities of the Press Commission from 1966 to 1988

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Press Commission

Reference: CH CIO-AH B-ID04-PRESS
Dates: 1966-1988
Level of description: Sub-series
Scope and medium: 2.4 l.m. Text documents.

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

In 1956, IOC members Lord Luke of Pavenham (Great Britain), Count Jean de Beaumont (France) and Douglas Roby (USA) recommended that the IOC create a department for the press and public relations. For various reasons, this could not be done¹.

At the 64th IOC Session in Rome (Italy) in April 1966, IOC President Avery Brundage asked member in Ireland Lord Killanin to study the issue of the IOC's relations with the press.

In a memorandum² dated 2 October 1966, Lord Killanin mentioned, in particular, the lack of relations between the press, the public and the IOC, and proposed various working methods to develop these relations. He also suggested creating a permanent three-member committee as well as a consultative committee to take care of the press and public relations. This proposal was approved by the IOC Executive Board at its meeting in Mexico City (Mexico) on 22 October 1966.

The Commission was tasked with improving the dissemination of information through press releases during IOC meetings, or through publications or via closer cooperation with the press and the public. It also worked with the press departments of the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games and cooperated with the press agencies, photo agencies and radio and television organisations. It guaranteed optimal working conditions for media representatives (written and photographic press and radio-television) and produced recommendations concerning the infrastructure and services provided by the Organising Committees during each edition of the summer and winter Olympic Games.

The Commission was composed of two bodies:

- A permanent select commission (also called select committee, fixed commission or sub-commission), composed of a small group of experts responsible for helping the Commission. It prepared detailed reports and presented recommendations for the Commission to study and on which to base its decisions.
- An extended commission, composed of IOC members and representatives of the International Sports Federations (IFs); National Olympic Committees (NOCs); Organising Committees for the Olympic Games; and the main press and photo agencies and other media.

The first meeting of the Commission for the Press and Public Relations took place on 3 and 4 April 1967 in London (Great Britain). It was chaired by Irish member Lord Killanin until 1972. In 1974, Spanish member Juan Antonio Samaranch took over as Commission Chairman until 1983, when Japanese member Masaji Kiyokawa became Chairman until 1989.

The Commission's title was "Commission for the Press and Public Relations" from 1967 to 1968. It was then called the "Press and Public Relations Commission" from October 1968 to 1972. It has been known as the Press Commission since 1974.

¹ Source: IOC Archives / B-ID04-PRESS/001 (SD 7)

² Source: IOC Archives / B-ID04-PRESS/002



The two bodies of the Commission did not meet in 1973.

As at 1 December 2013, the Press Commission was still active.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The sub-series was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The sub-series provides information on the main activities of the Press Commission, essentially linked to the infrastructure and services provided by the Organising Committees to the written and photographic press and other media. It also addresses press accreditation at the Olympic Games, reproduction rights and the Olympic Charter rules concerning the press.

The sub-series is made up of correspondence, mainly letters between press agencies and the Commission. It also includes general correspondence between the Commission members or between the Commission Chairman and the IOC.

It also contains documents linked to the meetings of the Commission, i.e. the minutes, roll calls, working documents, reports and correspondence concerning the organisation of these meetings.

The sub-series contains conservation copies of the minutes of the meetings of the Commission (incomplete collection).

The minutes have been digitised and are available on site in electronic format.

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 and in English, and some documents are in German and in Spanish.

Additional sources

Internal sources

IOC Sessions: B-ID01

IOC Executive Board meetings: B-ID02

IOC members – Commission members' files: B-ID05

Olympic Games – media and press files: C-J01 and C-J02

Notes

The content of this sub-series, including the Olympic identifications, is the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

December 2013