

Summary 1993 Session of the International Olympic Academy Participants Association

SUMMARY OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SESSION

AUGUST 1993

ANCIENT OLYMPIA

The third Reunion of the IOAAA will go down as a landmark in the Association's history. A small but select group of members gathered in Olympia with the expectation that the most important things that they would have to do were to discuss a new name for the Association, and elect the new Executive Board. However, in a surprise 10 minute meeting between the International Olympic Academy new Vice President, Mr. Marten Szymiczek, the Association's President, Mr. Ingolfur Hannesson, the Secretary, Mr. Srimal Wickremasinghe, and the Dean of the Academy, Mr. Kostas Georgiadis, the world of the Association and its members was turned upside down by a set of proposals from Mr. Szymiczek which would have far reaching consequences on the future of the IOAAA.

The crux of the proposals was to, overnight, hugely strengthen the links between the IOA and the Association, and to drastically improve the standing of the IOAAA within the Olympic Movement. The offer not only included financial support and secretarial back up but also the offer for IOAAA members to assist the IOA in its promotion of our common goals at sporting events around the world. Needless to say, the majority of the remainder of the Reunion session was spent carefully discussing these proposals. This followed a second meeting between Mr. Szymiczek and all IOAAA members at the reunion at which he spoke very frankly and openly about his proposals.

Following this meeting, draft minutes were presented to Mr. Szymiczek to ensure that all proposals had been included and had been interpreted correctly. Once these minutes had been accepted, the members then went through the proposals one by one, both as a group and in smaller groups of five or six. Despite some initial skepticism, brought on by mainly by the shock of the situation, it was agreed that it would not be in the interest of the Association not to accept, and so the proposal, along with a number of small amendments and additions were included in a letter of acceptance from the Executive Board to the IOA.

One slight problem arising from these proposals is the need for the Association's bylaws to be amended, but it was felt that there would be insufficient time to complete this and so it was agreed that this task would be deferred until the next reunion. However, due to a proposal by Mr. Szymiczek that the Association be opened up to participants from all of the sessions conducted by the IOA, Article 2f of the bylaws was amended to make this possible following a vote by all members present.

Following the departure of Mr. Filaretos as president of the IOA, who had raised an objection to the Association's use of the term alumni, it was decided that the name change was no longer necessary. The other main business of the session resulted in the unopposed unanimous re-election of the President, Secretary/Treasurer and Reunion Chair, and the unanimous and unopposed election of Mr. Panayiotis Vassilaras as the Association's Liaison to the IOA. According to the Association's bylaws, Ms. Laurel

Brassey therefore retains her position on the Executive Board as the Immediate Past President.

All those members present at the Reunion can leave Olympia with the knowledge that they have played an important part in a turning point in the Association's history and can return home with renewed optimism about the future of the IOAAA.