



Oberwiesenfeld today and tomorrow : A : Olympic Stadium ; B : Olympic Swimming Stadium ; C : Ice Palace ; D : Omnisport Indoor Stadium ; E : Peripheral speedway ; F : Highway to Munich ; G : Munich's underground ; H : Parking area ; SP : Other sports grounds ; X : Sheds.

MUNICH: 5½ YEARS TO GO

by Hubert Abrass, Director, Olympic Office of the City of Munich.

In five and a half years, in Summer 1972, the Games of the XXth Olympiad will be held in Munich. However, not all of these sixty-six months or so will be available for the preparatory work involved. It is well known that international competitions are to be held at the olympic venues, by way of test, in the year before the Games.

But even four and a half years seem to be a long time for preparations. Are they really ? To ask the question is to say no. All those who share the responsibility will realize the relative shortness of the time at their disposal for solving the tasks assigned to them considering the magnitude and complexity of the problems involved for an event of world-wide importance.

The Organizing Committee for the Games was constituted on 3rd July, 1966. It will call for the co-operation of experts and people of all sectors of public life as required. At present, twelve special committees are envisaged which are to deal with finances, construction and sports ; with culture and arts ; with transport, housing and food ; with medical services, administration and public relations ; with the olympic torch relay and international youth camp ; with the I.O.C. congress, other services for the I.O.C. and social events.

Daume suggests contest

In the opinion of Mr. Willi Daume, President of the Organizing Committee, all conditions are present in Munich for a " brotherly union of art and sports ". And he suggested the celebration of an Art Festival in which all nations will participate.

Already a competition for the planning of the olympic stadia and village will be announced in which architects from countries other than Germany are also welcome to participate.

A 556 million DM estimate

The foreseeable costs of the Olympic Games amount to 556 million marks. By 1972 this aggregate amount may have increased, in particular as a result of higher prices. The costs will be defrayed, in equal shares of one third each, by the City of Munich, the State of Bavaria, and the Federal Republic of Germany. They include the following major investment items : olympic stadium 80 million DM, indoor and swimming stadia 41 million, other sports facilities 48,5 million, improvement of existing sports facilities 10,5 million, olympic village 165 million, construction of roads 102 million, extension of streetcar- and bus services 5,5 million, subway construction 100 million, organization and administration 3,5 million DM.

World-wide news service

The Federal Post Service promised that by 1972 all requirements of an efficient world-wide telecommunication service will be met. Additional local exchanges will provide up to two thousand telephone connections for the Games. Telex connections will soon have been established with all important countries throughout the world. Luckily, the Raisting satellite wireless transmitting station is located only 50 km. from Munich. In one of the next few years a second telecommunication satellite is to be launched which will add considerably to possibilities of telephone and television transmission.

Private initiative

The Olympic Games 1972 have given a strong filip to the private initiative of the Munich citizenry. A sponsor organization for the construction of Munich's big stadium has changed its name to "Association for the Advancement of the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich " and will devote its future activities, as the name implies, to the furtherance, in an ideal and material sense and on a non-profit making basis, of the olympic venues.

H. A.