

Olympics broadcast contracts signed with Europe

Marcel Deschamps, general manager of the Olympics Radio and Television Organization (ORTO), has announced ratification of an agreement on the unilateral facilities required for covering the 1976 Olympic Games by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the Organisation internationale de radiodiffusion et télévision (OIRT).

Unilateral facilities being supplied by ORTO comprise all special technical services that might be required by a broadcaster over and above basic services, according to a contract signed in September 1974 between the Organizing Committee for the 1976 Olympic Games (COJO) and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

The EBU represents the broadcasting organizations of all western European countries, while the OIRT represents those of seven eastern European countries, plus Cuba, Egypt, Mongolia, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of South Vietnam.

Before coming to ORTO's headquarters, contracts were signed between the Organizing Committee for the 1976 Olympic Games (COJO) and EBU and OIRT for television broadcast rights for the Games in Eastern and Western Europe.

The contracts call for payment of \$4.5 million by EBU and \$2 million by OIRT.

Broadcasting the games

The Olympic Games broadcast from Montreal this summer will be the biggest television show in history.

A billion people around the world will be able to tune in to Canadian coverage of the games thanks to the CBC's Olympics Radio and Television Organization (ORTO) created in 1973 to assume complete responsibility for world-wide transmission of the games.

ORTO will provide broadcasters with electronic and film coverage of each sports event of the Olympic Games as well as audio pick-up equipment at all 29 sites. All broadcasters will then be able to insert their own commentaries for both radio and television. ORTO will also offer services to foreign broadcasters including accommodation for 2,000 electronic communication specialists.

Olympic site shapes up

Newsmen touring the Olympic site last month were deeply impressed and were left "mouths agape", wrote a *Montreal Star* reporter, by the many signs of recent dramatic progress in construction. "Startling progress," reports the *Gazette*, a Montreal morning daily newspaper, while *Le Devoir* said the Olympic Games would open on July 17 "in conditions that the most

optimistic person would not have suspected only a few weeks ago".

La Presse commented that the Olympic Installations Board "has reason to be proud" of what has been accomplished. Said the *Journal de Montréal*: "The miracles multiply." *Le Jour* reported that "newsmen had been able to confirm" the statement by Dr. Victor Goldbloom, the Quebec minister who heads the Olympic Installations Board, that construction delays had been overcome.

Remarkable progress

All who took part in this latest tour of the site agreed with France's Olympic delegate, Roger de Groot who commented: "As far as Olympic works are concerned, I have never seen progress achieved at such a rate."

In fact, not only is the schedule submitted to the International Olympic Committee at Innsbruck in February being scrupulously followed, but certain work is two or three weeks ahead of schedule.

Swimming pool hall

The concrete shell of the swimming pool hall is complete and tiling has started. Pressure tests to check for leaks in the competition pool are five days ahead. Installation of seats, which was to have started April 24, is already progressing rapidly.

At the stadium the technical ring is completed and the metal roofing is

European broadcast signing ceremony

(Seated, from left to right); Pierre DesRoches CBC executive vice-president; Jaromir Hrebik, OIRT secretary-general; Henrikas Jushkevitchus, vice-chairman of the U.S.S.R. State Committee for Broadcasting; Dr. George Straschnov, EBU's director of Legal Affairs.

(Standing): Antoine Taschereau, legal counsel; Michel Gagnon, director of Planning; Guy DesOrmeaux, director of Program and Production Services; Marcel Deschamps, general manager; Barry McCorquodale, assistant general manager; Hugo Marty, general coordinator of EBU's Olympics Operations Group; Jarle Hoeyaeter, chief of EBU's Olympics Operations Group; and Manuel Romero, EBU's head of Engineering and Production.

