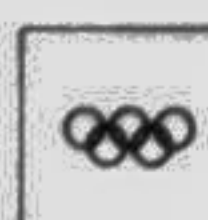


Valediction forbidding mourning



MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Sept 24: Sydney was the right choice for the 2000 Summer Games, but China would be welcome to bid again for the role of host, the president of the International Olympic Committee said Friday, reports AP.

"The Chinese tried to stretch out a hand of friendship, but they were portrayed differently... I felt a sense of siege coming here."

Sydney prevailed primarily because it won over the supporters of the two European contenders eliminated in the second and third round of voting, Berlin and Manchester.

Also, the Australians had developed excellent contacts within the IOC during unsuccessful bids by Brisbane and Melbourne for the 1992 and 1996 Games.

In the first round of Thursday's balloting, Beijing got 32 votes, Sydney 30, Manchester 11, Berlin 9, while Istanbul was eliminated with 7. In

the second round, it was Beijing 37, Sydney 30, Manchester 13 and Berlin dropping out with 9. In the third, it was Beijing 40, Sydney 37, Manchester 11.

One of the IOC's 89 voting members, David Sibande of Swaziland, left the meeting room after the second round, reportedly summoned by home by his government. Samaranch said new rules might be drafted to prevent such departures, which in this case could have resulted in a tie vote.

Wu Jianmin, senior spokesman for the Beijing delegation, suggested China might try again for the 2004 Games.

"We're going to think about it," Wu said. "In life you cannot succeed the first time in everything. This is Beijing's first bid. Many cities bid several times."

"We are not discouraged, because we Chinese have a tradition: if you succeed, don't be cocky; if you fail, don't be disheartened. We will keep on participating in the development of the Olympics."

Asked about the future, Samaranch replied, "I will not push China to bid for the Games again — it is their own decision. But if China is bidding again, we will be happy. It is a very important country."

Samaranch reported that Brazilian and Argentine officials had contacted him about seeking the 2004 Summer Games. But he said there was interest from many other possible contenders as well.

Some IOC members felt 2000 was too soon for China to get the Games.

"I think Sydney didn't just win it because of the merit of the bid," said Kevan Gosper, an IOC vice president from Australia. "The question wasn't: Do you go to China? The question was: Do you go now? It was a matter of timing that favoured us."

Wei said China gained stature, even in defeat.

"Our most significant accomplishment here was that we made outside people understand Chinese people and culture," he said. "China used to be a mystery. Through the bidding process we succeeded in enhancing people's understanding."

But he indicated the Chinese wouldn't quickly forgive efforts by US congressmen to block Beijing's bid because of human rights issues.

"Certainly, very many Chinese felt very angry about that," Wei said.

Anticipating a hometown Games, China had been beefing up its sports programme, complementing its champion divers with record-shattering women runners and a host of other new stars. Following the IOC rebuff, its officials vowed to intensify the drive for gold medals at the Atlanta Games in 1996.

Australia also expects a sports boom.

"To compete in your home country is the absolute ultimate," said Kieren Parkins, 1992 gold medalist in the 1,500-metre swim. "Every athlete in Australia will be working just that much harder."

Manchester gets down to business again

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 24: Disappointed Manchester, shaking off its hangover after an all-night party, pondered on Friday whether it should aim for a "third time lucky" bid for the Olympics or leave London to try Britain, reports Reuters.

Theatrical impresario Bob Scott, the Manchester bid mastermind, said: "We have got to face up to the possibility that London would be a better city and if it is a better city for the bid, we have to be pragmatic about that."

But he was still upbeat after his eight-year-old dream was shattered and Sydney snatched the prize of staging the greatest sporting event on earth in the year 2000.

Scott said: "If there was a competition with other British cities, I think Manchester, if it decided to bid again, would be able to win that competition."

Britain last staged the Olympics in 1948 when London answered pleas to stage a hastily arranged "austerity Games" when post-war food and petrol rationing were still in force.

But as sports mad Prime Minister John Major pointed out in Monte Carlo, Britain has never been awarded the Games.

Up to 60,000 Mancunians took to the streets on Thursday night determined to celebrate, win or lose, after this gritty birthplace of the industrial revolution was thrust into the international spotlight by its second successive Olympic bid.

Cars with their horns blaring packed the city centre. Even the "We can win 2000" stickers had 2004 hastily scrawled on them. Fireworks and a laser show lit up the night sky.

But grey skies and rain — a familiar feature of this northern English city — on Friday matched the mood of its 2.6 million people who always knew they faced an uphill climb against Beijing and the glamorous winner Sydney.



IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch (R) and Frank Sartor, Mayor of Sydney, the host city for Games 2000 sign the document in Monaco on Sept 23. Paul Keating (right behind Samaranch) and IOC vice-president Kevan Gosper are seen alongside ecstatic unidentified members. — AFP photo

FACT FILE: SYDNEY 2000

UNDATED, Sept 24: A look at Sydney, Australia, host of the 2000 Olympics, reports AP.

THE CITY: Australia's biggest city, population 3.7 million.

DATE OF OLYMPICS: Sept 16-Oct 1, 2000.

FINANCING: Total cost of staging the Games projected at US \$975 million. Biggest revenue earner would be TV rights, estimated at US \$488 million. Projected surplus is US \$4 million. Separate budget of US \$201 million for construction under way, to be completed whether or not Sydney gets the Games.

FACILITIES: Construction of a athletics and swimming centre at Homebush Bay, west of city, will be completed in 1994. About 70 per cent of venues are in place. Still to be built are 80,000-seat main stadium, athletes' village, velodrome and 16,000-seat gymnastics arena.

EXPERIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Melbourne hosted the 1956 Olympic Games and Brisbane the Commonwealth Games in 1982. Sydney hosted the World Amateur Bobsleigh Championships in 1991 and was main centre for 1993 FIFA World Youth Championships. It annually hosts international tennis, rugby and cricket events.

STRENGTHS: All competitors would live in one village. Australia is politically stable with strong links to IOC. All venues within 65 miles (105 kilometres) of the village. Superior technical plan. Most visually appealing of the bidding cities. Has support of government and environmental groups. Has budgeted US \$12.5 million to pay for athletes and officials to get to Australia.

WEAKNESSES: Distance and perceived isolation. Sixteen-hour time difference between Australia and eastern US TV markets. Heavy traffic.

It's more than a Games lost



BEIJING, Sept 24: The Chinese leadership has lost more than the chance to hold a big sporting event, reports AP.

For months, it used the prospect of staging the 2000 Olympic Games in Beijing to build national pride, unity and willingness to work hard for economic development.

Faced with the likelihood of an internal power struggle before 2000 upon the death of senior leader Deng Xiaoping, who is 89 years old, the communist Party hoped that a national commitment to stage the games would discourage social unrest.

Now that motive is gone, and the government may find it hard to find a substitute with such widespread support.

An anti-American backlash was feared, by some observers because of the US Congress' opposition to Beijing's bid on human rights grounds. Some Chinese who gathered briefly near central Beijing's Tiananmen Square blamed the United States for Beijing's loss.

"The United States used the Olympics as a political tool," said a university teacher who gave only her surname, Xie. "Isn't America the worst?" shouted someone in the group.

China's leaders might well be tempted to fan this sentiment, especially in light of the worsening disputes with Washington over trade, human rights and Chinese arms sales.

But the official reaction, scripted in advance, was gracious.

"The important thing is participating," the Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, said in a front-page commentary that was read on national television moments after Sydney's selection was announced.

"In the future China will be even more open to the outside world, welcoming friends from all over."

It hinted at a repeat bid, saying, "We believe that the day cannot be distant when the five-ringed Olympic flag flutters on high over this Oriental country."

Chen Xitong, president of the Beijing Olympic Bid Committee, immediately reassured Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson that China will participate in the 1996 Atlanta Games. Another bid committee official, Zhang Baifu, had suggested before the decision that China might stay away in retaliation, if Beijing lost.

Behind the polite words on Friday, the shock of the loss was palpable after months of being described as the front-

runner. Some people broke out in tears. Others fought to keep them back, like Liu Young-cheng, a policeman interviewed on Chinese television.

"I thought it was such a sure thing, so my disappointment is great," he said.

China's top leaders — senior leader Deng Xiaoping, President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng — stayed away from Monte Carlo in order to avoid public humiliation in case of loss, and none appeared in public or issued any comment when Sydney was chosen.

The most concrete loss to Beijing residents is the opportunity to speed up the construction of new highways, subway lines, apartments and parks. Many of the civic improvements called for in Beijing's Olympic bid were already on the drawing board but are likely to take five to 10 years longer to achieve without the funds the Olympics would have generated.

One of the disappointed people in Tiananmen Square, a man who gave his surname as Cao, complained that the world doesn't understand the advances Beijing has already made.

Some foreigners, he said, "still think we have pigtailed and women still have bound feet. They really don't understand us."



Anna Paton (C) and Amanda Cremer after International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch announced the selection of Sydney as the 2000 Summer Games host yesterday. Over a hundred thousand Aussies watched the announcement on a giant screen on the shores of Sydney Harbour. — AFP photo

Dalai Lama hails IOC decision

LIBREVILLE, Sept 24: The Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, welcomed the decision of the International Olympic Committee on Thursday not to give the 2000 Games to Beijing, reports AP.

"It gives the right signal, that the international community supports freedom and democracy," he said on the sidelines of a conference on north-south cooperation.

"Because of China's past history and great civilisation, an international event like the Olympics should be held in a country like China."

"But, because the present regime is totalitarian and repressive, I would give the wrong signal to the Chinese leadership."

Taiwan sorry too

TAIPEI, Sept 24: Taiwan Friday expressed regret that Beijing had failed to win the 2000 Olympics, despite the country's long-standing political dispute with China, reports AP.

"It is indeed regrettable," said Lee Ching-Ping, deputy secretary general of the Straits Exchange Foundations (SEF), a government-funded body handling civilian issues between Taiwan and China.

"As an ethnic Chinese, of course, we wished 2000 Olympics could be held on the land of Chinese," Lee told reporters before leaving for Beijing to join the Sunday closing ceremony of a marathon joining the two countries, which began in Taipei on September 12.

Taiwan's sports groups and various civilian organisations had openly showed support for Beijing in its bid to host the Games, despite political confrontation between the two governments.

Government spokesman Hu Tsu-Ching said: "No matter which country is chosen to host the Games, we respect decision of the International Olympic Committee."

'Sydneyiders' cock-ahoop

SYDNEY, Sept 24: Thousands sang and danced in the streets and the stock market rallied Friday after Sydney was named host city for the 2000 Summer Olympics, reports AP.

Australia's oldest and most populous city won the honour with a high-tech, environmentally-friendly promise to produce a best-ever Olympics for the new millennium.

Its 3.7 million residents, who call themselves "Sydneyiders", are unashamedly euphoric.

"We can't stop crying. This is the best news I have ever heard," said Rebecca Garbutt, 17. "We all thought Beijing was going to get it. But deep down we knew Sydney is the best."

The government hopes the 1.7 billion Australian dollar (US \$1.1 billion) event will boost Australia's sluggish economy and put a dent in the 11 per cent unemployment rate.

"This will be a great confidence-builder for the country," a jubilant Prime Minister Paul Keating told Australian reporters in Monte Carlo, where the International Olympic Committee Thursday chose Sydney ahead of Beijing and other candidate cities Berlin, Manchester and Istanbul.

Organisers estimate the national economy will receive a 7 billion Australian dollar (US \$4.5 billion) boost from the Games. Between 100,000 and 150,000 new jobs will be created, they say.

The immediate effect was felt when the stock market opened to hours after the IOC's announcement.

The All Ordinaries Index, the market's broadest measure of stock prices, jumped 31.1 points, or 1.6 per cent, to 1,959.6 points in the first 10 minutes of trading. Activity slowed as the day wore on but prices on many stocks, particularly for construction and building companies, remained high.

"It took off with a real rush," said stock broker Dianne Jenner of Dicksons Limited.

About 70 per cent of Sydney's Olympic facilities are complete or near complete. But many projects, including a 80,000-seat stadium and the athletes' Village, must now be built.

Sydney's bid, backed by the environmental group Greenpeace, includes the rehabilitation of polluted areas at the main Games site in the suburb of Homebush, formerly

home to a meat backing plant, a waste dump and other industries.

The Australian Tourist Commission said it is aiming to attract almost 7 million tourists during the Olympic year and million more before and after the Games.

"The Games will lead a huge resurgence in interest to travel to Australia," said Carole Hancock, the commission's acting managing director.

The IOC decision came two hours before dawn Sydney time. Residents held all night parties across the city in anticipation.

An estimated 100,000 revelers gathered to watch the announcement on giant television screens at Circular Quay on Sydney Harbour, the nation's birthplace where European settlers first arrived in 1788.

They hollered for joy non-stop for 10 minutes after IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch read out their city's name.

Total strangers hugged and kissed. Other chanted: "Sydney, Sydney, Sydney" as fireworks exploded over its landmark opera house which was illuminated in the five colours of the Olympic movement.

Partying continued hours after sunrise. The harbour was full of sailboats and pleasure craft while downtown streets were choked with traffic. Drivers honked their horns for hours.

Australia is one of a handful of countries to have competed in every Olympics since the modern Games started in 1896.

When it staged its only other Games in Melbourne in 1956, it reaped 13 gold medals, its best tally ever.

"To compete in an Olympics on your own soil is the greatest feeling in the world," said champion swimmer Dawn Fraser, who won gold in Melbourne as well as at Olympics in Rome in 1960 and Tokyo in 1964.

"Usually, we go cap in hand but the athletes' managers aren't that interested."

"It's also hard to raise the appropriate funds but I think that will change now," he added.

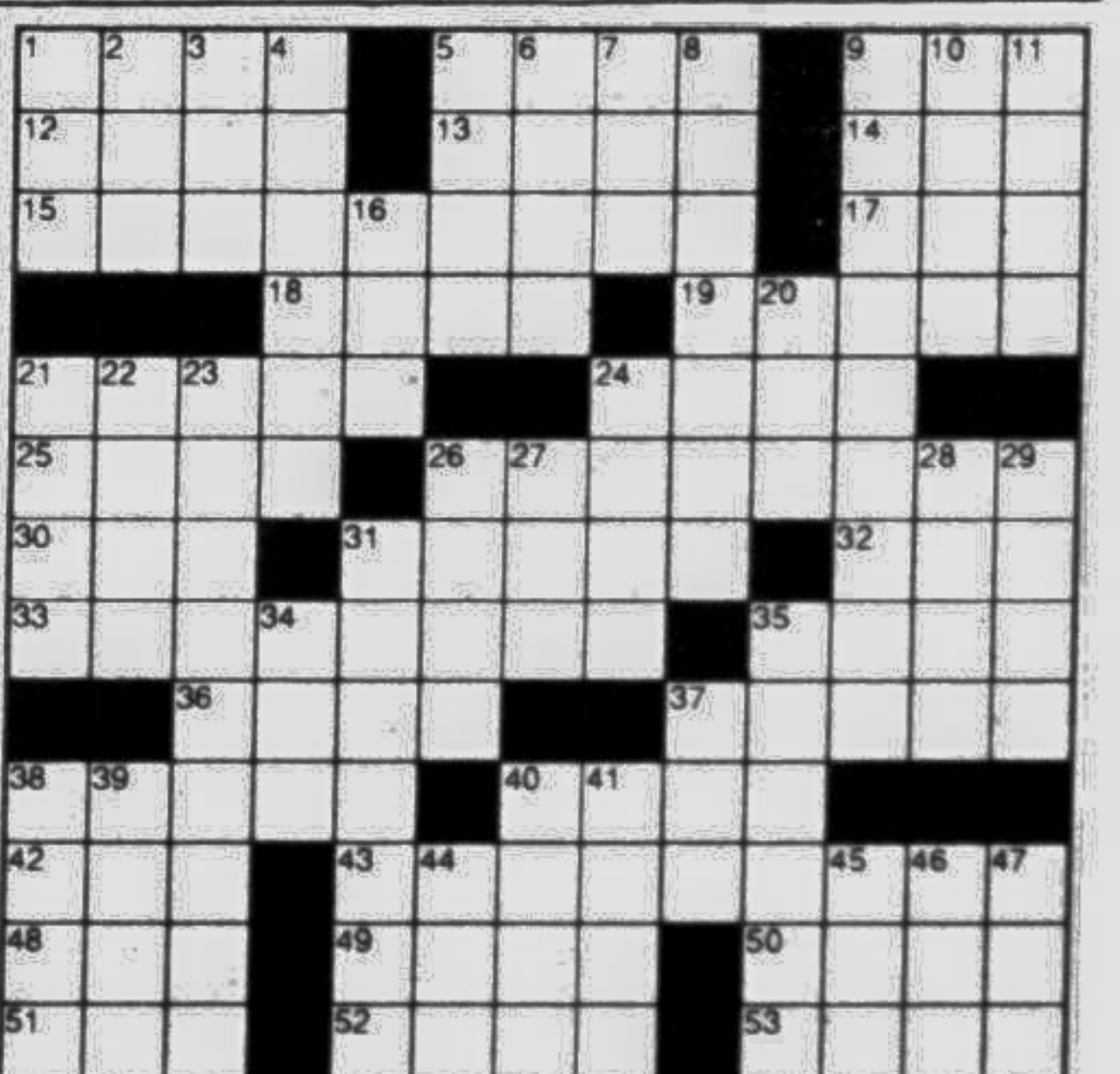
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS										DOWN																																							
1 Speaker's place	5 Vendetta	9 Wield an ax	12 Between jobs	13 Basilica area	14 "— You Lonesome Tonight"	15 Cotton pile fabric	17 Cover	18 Otherwise	19 Mah-jongg set	21 Murphy Brown's baby	24 Indy entry	25 Word before wire or oak	26 Dis-tressed	30 Inseparable	31 Singer Eydie	32 Night before	33 Worries greatly	35 "Where's the —?"	36 Glop	37 Laugh-provoking	38 Keyboard comic	40 Last writes?	42 Adjective suffix	43 Tarking-ton opus	48 Raided the ice box	49 Green acres	50 Gumbo base	51 Bart, to Homer	52 Tackles' team-mates	53 "Swell!"	22 Source of veritas	23 Streisand song	24 Magazine articles?	26 Gridlock noise	27 Museum stuff	28 Factor-able by 2	29 Challenge	31 Lake Ontario feeder	34 Beer container	35 Old shoe fastener	37 Half a sawbuck	38 Prejudice	39 Aware of	40 Roman poet	41 Franklin and Cartwright	44 Sea flyer	45 Scratch (out)	46 NOW goal	47 Natalie's dad

Solution time: 24 mins.

JAZZ	CAM	PLOW
ALIENATE	LODI	
REPAIRED	EVIL	
LBS	INDEED	
TACOS	DOUG	
ALOT	ROCKETS	
MUD	MOORE	HAM
MACABRE	PAGE	
URTS	WATER	
HOYDEN	KIT	
AMAD	SENTRIES	
FALL	ONEHORSE	
TREE	NEW NEST	

Yesterday's answer 3-9



CRYPTOQUIP

Q R W C D O Q Q R D O K C R P Y R I
X J X O K K I U M M Y O D K R I J
P U O I O M T I C P W
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SKILLED SEA CAPTAIN
TURNED ROAD REPAIRER SO THAT HE COULD
WORK WITH TAR.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals C
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



The official logo of the Sydney Olympic Games 2000, the design is inspired by the unique sails of the Sydney Opera House and integrates the motto of the Australian aborigines and the five colours of the Olympic rings. — AFP photo