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CENTENNIAL GAMES CHIPS

CAMERA LETS CLINTON DOWN

ATLANTA, July 20 (AP) — President Clinton will always have his memories of the opening ceremony at the Olympic Stadium. He just won't have any pictures.

The US leader, attending the ceremonies with his wife and daughter, apparently failed to advance his camera's film as he took some shots of the Atlanta extravaganza Friday night.

The problem was uncovered when Whitney White of the White House staff asked Associated Press staffers at the stadium to process a roll of film shot by Clinton earlier in the night.

The AP, hopeful of moving one of the presidential pictures, obliged — but found only a blank roll of film.

BRITAIN ONE STEP AHEAD

Red British post and telephone boxes have been shipped to Atlanta to make the British team feel more at home, team officials said on Friday.

The two post boxes and one telephone box have been installed right in front of the British section of the Olympic Village.

"We are trying to make the athletes feel at home as much as possible," said deputy chief de mission Simon Clegg.

Clegg said the British flats were designed for four students, but athletes were crammed in, eight per flat.

However, the team's horses are living in the lap of luxury with shag pile carpet on the floors of their stables.

SOMETHING & NOTHING

A veteran civil rights leader set a torch to the Georgia flag Friday on the steps of the Capitol in view of spectators streaming to the opening ceremony.

Kenyans' conflict within

"Damn you and goodbyel" declared Hosea Williams, touching the flame from a wooden torch to the nylon fabric, which melted in places but did not burst into flames. Several dozen supporters chanted, "Burn, burn, burn."

The act was not a crime. Burning the state flag is not illegal under Georgia law.

The flag incorporates the fighting banner of the Confederacy, star-studded crossed bars in blue on a red background. It was added to the flag in 1956 in defiance of court-ordered integration.

After Williams burned the flag, a separate group of mostly white young people set an American flag on fire. Williams' supporters distanced themselves from that action. It was not clear what the group was protesting. A banner read, "Food Not Bombs."

DOWN IN DUMPS

Some 3,000 students who came to Atlanta to work in Olympic souvenir stands and get a ticket to an Olympic event saw their hopes disappear because of a lack of suitable sleeping arrangements.

The students, most of them in high school, came from as far away as Hawaii, said Bob Searles, a chaperone from a high school in Florida.

"Summer Games Employment Services Group of Atlanta recruited the students and promised beds and meals at two schools. But the fire marshal's office advised them to vacate the schools this week, saying the arrangements were unsafe.

Left with no place to stay, the employment group sent the students to motels in suburban Atlanta. The motels, unsure if they were going to be paid, asked the students to leave Friday so the rooms would be available for paying guests.

Many of the students had quit their summer jobs just to get a chance to see the Olympics, said Barry Reid, administrator of the consumer affairs office.

"It's not a happy experience for anybody," Reid said. "Our indications are the operation was well-financed, but obviously not well-planned."

DREAM COMES TRUE

Calling it the ultimate symbol of his father's dream, the son of Martin Luther King Jr carried the Olympic torch Friday past a chapel bearing the slain civil rights leader's name on the campus where he went to college.

"My father couldn't be here so, in a real sense, I'm here in his place," said Dexter King, who carried the torch past the Martin Luther King Jr International Chapel at Morehouse College.

"When my mother passed the torch to me, it was like his torch was being passed on to the next generation," Dexter King said.

The Olympics have always meant peace and that's what King stood for," said Teresa Dumas, whose daughter Takeisha also ran with the torch Friday. "It's only fitting that they carry it. There's nothing better than that."

It was one of the final legs in an 84-day journey that has taken the torch 15,000 miles (24,000 kilometers) through 43 states.

ROYAL CHARITY

A foundation headed by Britain's Prince Charles is donating a 1 million dollars monument to Atlanta as a lasting reminder of the Olympics.

The 43-foot (almost 14-meter) World Athletes Monument will be built near the city centre, said Rodney M Cook Jr, of Atlanta, a director of the Prince of Wales Foundation for Architecture.

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what is going on," Kiptanui said.

Among those who also skipped the training camp were Olympic steeplechase champion Matthew Birrell, Olympic 800-metre champion William Tanui and Olympic 400-metre bronze medalist Samson Kitur.

Keino, who helped popularise distance running in Africa by winning the 1,500 metres at the 1968 Olympics and the steeplechase at the 1972 Games, has fumed the issue as a matter of national unity.

"We should unite as a team and work together," Keino said during the training camp in Hattiesburg. "You have to respect your country. You know to be there on time. If you can't do then, no need to select you, even if you are the best."

Kiptanui said the recent battle is simply the latest round in a long fight between Kenyan team leaders and the agents who represent athletes. Similar problems tainted the 1992 Olympics and the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

"And maybe the same problem will happen next year at the World Championships because we have the same people running sports," Kiptanui said.

"Most Kenyan officials are not happy how athletes are being managed by managers on the outside," he added. "They just want Moses to stay in the country and train, train, train before the Olympics."

Kiptanui said the conflict has demoralised some Kenyan runners and strained relations between athletes team leaders. But he was that won't change Keino's status in Kenya.

"I think the government overruled him," Kiptanui said.

ATLANTA, July 20 (AP): Green Healyous, Nationalism. Clashing generations.

A battle between Kenyan runners and team officials epitomises the tensions that occur when athletes from a poor country are exposed to the wealth that comes with international stardom.

They didn't make money, and now we're making money," Olympic steeplechase favorite Moses Kiptanui said of team officials. "It's not that they don't want me to run, but it's that they don't want me to make money."

Though the conflict apparently has been resolved temporarily, allowing Kenya's top runners to compete in the Olympics, animosity lingers as the east African nation tries to continue its mastery of distance events.

Kenyan men won two golds and eight medals overall in events ranging from 400 meters to 10,000 metres at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, including a sweep in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

They are favoured in several Olympic distance races this summer and should repeat their sweep in the steeplechase.

But that all seemed at risk a few days ago when Kip Keino, one of Africa's greatest sports heroes and the leader of the Kenyan team, threatened to throw more than two dozen athletes off the team for not reporting to a pre-Olympic training camp in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Sabine Hack in semis

PALERMO, Sicily, July 20: Second-seeded Sabine Hack of Germany downed the No 8 seed, Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia, Friday at the 107,500 dollars Palermo Grand Prix women's tennis tournament, reports AP.

ATLANTA, July 20 (AP): The smallest nation taking part in the Atlanta Games has so few people that the entire native population could be comfortably accommodated in the Olympic Village.

But the South Pacific island of Nauru is still confident of celebrating its Olympic debut by winning a medal thanks to a weightlifter whose popularity is such that his face appears on postage stamps.

Nauru is mind-bogglingly small, it has a native population of only 8,000, compared to the more than 10,000 athletes who are in Atlanta.

The athletes once stayed in a hotel in China which had more guests than their country has people," said team doctor David Kennedy. "They were completely disorientated."

Despite this, Nauru has managed to muster six Olympic competitors so that an impressive 0.075 of its population will be taking part in the Games.

If China did the same, they would have a squad approaching 800,000 athletes.

Leading the Nauru challenge is Marcus Stephen, a

weightlifter who won three gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, two years ago.

Stephen knows almost everyone in his country personally and his presence on stamps makes him an even more familiar sight.

"He has a realistic chance of at least winning a bronze," said Kennedy, an Australian who moved to Nauru five years ago. "It would be an amazing achievement for such a small country."

Nauru, which became an international Olympic Committee member two years ago, has two other weightlifters and Kennedy said the short, stocky build of the Polynesians made them ideal for the sport.

Sport has developed quickly as the income derived from the lucrative but environmentally destructive phosphate mining industry has been ploughed back into providing facilities.

Although incomes are high, they live in very simple houses and they do not like to show their wealth. They split everything. Even if someone buys a car, he shares it with the rest of the family," said Kennedy.

At least 200 people take part in an Australian rules football league which features ten teams, while an estimated 1,000 are actively involved in other sports such as tennis

and athletics.

The weightlifting facilities are second in the region only to Melbourne," said Stephen, who lived there for 11 years and speaks English with a heavy Australian accent.

Kennedy said that Nauru natives were by nature introverted, cordial contact with foreigners, and could find travelling an unnerving experience.

"Sport is helping them break out of their closed society, they are becoming more open," Kennedy said. "But I don't think they will leave it spoil the country."

He added that Nauru was everything that the Olympic host nation is not.

Consumerism is frowned upon, there are no taxis, crime is virtually non-existent and the island's only road cuts across the runway at the airport.

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