

9.7.92

Jem/223/227/75

C. J. 9/7/92

Olympic team will not wear armbands

THE International Olympic Committee has agreed in principle that the South African Olympic team may demonstrate in some way their sympathy with the "Peace and democracy" cause. National Olympic Committee of SA (Nocsa) president Sam Ramsamy said yesterday.

South African Olympic officials will meet this weekend to decide just how this sympathy can be expressed.

"Armbands do not seem to be the ideal way," Mr Ramsamy told a media conference. "Many of the athletes — swimmers, for instance — do not wear sleeves, and an armband could impede their performances."

"We will be putting forward a number of alternative proposals at a special general meeting this weekend."

Mr Ramsamy said that after the hiatus caused by political developments and violence, it was now "all systems go" for Barcelona.

TO PAGE 2

No armbands for Olympics

FROM PAGE 1

"There are now no impediments in our way, and all paths have been cleared by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (Anocsa) and the IOC."

"We have taken on extra staff who are virtually working round the clock to cope with all the arrangements which have fallen behind through circumstances beyond our control, and I am confident that by the time we leave on the 20th, everything will be in order."

A series of meetings will be held this weekend to finalise arrangements, starting tomorrow evening with a meeting of officials going to Barcelona and representatives of federations which do not

have officials accompanying their sport to the Games.

A special general meeting of Nocsa will be held on Saturday, with the question of the agreement reached with the ANC "and how to translate it into action" on the agenda. Then there will be a meeting with the athletes and officials going to Barcelona.

The meetings will continue on Sunday.

On drug-testing, Mr Ramsamy said he understood most athletes had already submitted themselves to tests, though the results were not yet available.

Athletes who had not yet been tested would undergo tests this weekend. Athletes overseas would be tested in Frankfurt by the Australian medical team now based there.

"I am general manager of the SA team and I am not going to take anyone who has not been drug-tested," said Mr Ramsamy.

The 25 members of the "development squad" being sent to Barcelona would be named in the next few

days, and certainly by Saturday, he said.

Mr Ramsamy said he would be intervening personally with the international amateur boxing authorities in a bid to ensure all three South African boxers named were included in the Olympic tournament. It appeared there was some doubt because of the country's late entry, he said.

Athletics SA had put forward the name of javelin ace Tom Petranoff for the 17th place in the track and field squad for the Games, but clearance had not yet been received from the IOC.

It was still not clear whether there would be an 18th spot for athletics. "But they have been assured they will be given priority if another place becomes available, for whatever reason," he added.

It had not yet been decided who would be given the honour of carrying the flag for the South African team at the opening ceremony in Barcelona. "It is my prerogative as general manager of the team to name the person, and I will only make my decision known on the morning of the ceremony," he said. — Sapa.