

IOC wants Beijing to open Internet during Olympics

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(AP) Kevan Gosper, vice chairman of the IOC coordinating commission, has told Chinese officials that the internet must be open during the Olympics and that restricting access during the games *"would reflect very poorly"* on the host nation. He made the comments during the first of three days of talks- the last official sessions between IOC inspectors and the Chinese hosts before the games begin in just over four months. *"This morning we discussed and insisted again"*, Gosper said. *"Our concern is that the press (should be) able to operate as it has at previous games"*. Gosper said the Chinese had an obligation under the *"host city agreement"* to provide internet access to the 30,000 accredited and non-accredited journalists expected to attend. Beijing routinely blocks Chinese access to some foreign news websites and blogs, a practice it has stepped up since recent protests began in Tibet.

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