

## Diary Entry

Dear Diary,

Today was one of the hardest days of my life. Today I was at the Munich Olympics reporting about a tragic terrorist attack. At 5:30 a.m. 5 Arab terrorists knocked on the door. A coach and one of the members that opened the door, was shot while the rest of the members escaped. Immediately after, the terrorists rounded up nine Israeli players and took them hostage. They demanded that Israel releases 234 prisoners and for Germany to release 2 head terrorists. I arrived at the scene and I heard gunshots and people were running in all different directions, I was scared and did not know what to do this was not a typical day for me. I saw the rescue helicopters come in, but they failed. The fight between the Germans and Palestinians finally finished at 3:00 a.m. The police captured the three surviving terrorists. Part of me is still in shock at what happened. I cannot believe that there is so much hate in this world. I have a broken heart that will never heal. After this all the survived members were frozen and I'm sure they'll remember this day forever.

**Name:** Alexander Gilady

**Born:**

Teheran, Iran, December 1942 to his parents of a Polish origin, that ran away from their native town of Krakow on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of World War II.

Teheran was the one stop before last of a four-year refugee journey through Russia, Siberia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and finally on February 18<sup>th</sup> 1943, came to Israel – then Palestine under the British Mandate.

**Married status:**

Non-married

Daughter – Galia – Born on the Olympic Day – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 73

**Titles:**

Member, International Olympic Committee

Senior Vice President Global Operations, NBC Sports

Chairman, IAAF TV Commission

Member, IOC RTV Commission Executive Group

Chairman, FIBA TV Council

**Hobbies:**

Opera, Sailing, Poetry

**Sport:**

Power walk

**Professional career:**

**June 1964** - Joint the newspaper "Yedioth Ahronoth" as a gofer and a runner in the Sports Department.

**1965** - Started a career as a sport journalist.

**1966** - Became a regional correspondent

**1969** - Was invited to join the new established Israel State TV as a sport commenter

**1970** – Became editor of the Saturday night sport program

**1972** – Deputy team leader to the Israeli TV delegation to the Munich Olympic Games.

**1975** - Promoted to become head of sport.

**1976** - Executive producer of the Montreal Olympics for Israel TV (77 hours telecast)  
This success brought to his promotion as an executive producer of all Israel TV special events. Some has become world known productions like:

**November 77** - Executive producer of the historical visit to Jerusalem by the Egyptian President, Anwar El-Sadat.

**December 77** – The first Israeli to enter Egypt with an Israeli passport as a team leader and executive producer of the peace talks.

**1978** – Liaison officer for the operation group of the world cup in Argentina.

**1979** – Executive producer of the most successful "Eurovision song contest" held in Jerusalem.

**1980** - Member of the Operation Group of the European Broadcasting Union to the Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid. At the same time, continued as head of sport and as basketball and track & field commentator with the highlights of the first ever European Cup Champions for his favorite team – "Maccabi Tel Aviv"

**1980** – Was approached by 2 American TV networks, NBC and CBS offering

- 1981** – Accepted the NBC offer and moved to London.
- 1982** – NBC wins the rights to the first World Championship T & F in Helsinki that marked the beginning of a new era in international sports on US TV.
- 1984** – Promoted to Vice President for International and Olympic Liaison. Appointed to the IOC RTV Commission.
- 1985** – Played a vital role in NBC acquiring the rights to broadcast the Olympic Games from Seoul. Appointed as Chairman of the IAAF TV Commission and is held responsible for revolutionizing the coverage of the sport and setting up world class guidelines.
- 1986** – Became a Member of the Executive Group of the IOC RTV Commission, a group of experts that has become the top authority for broadcasting the Olympic Games.
- February 1993** – Invited to lead a bid for the first commercial TV channel in Israel against six other bidders. NBC permits the attempt providing his cooperation with the network continues.
- May 1993** – "Keshet Broadcasting" wins the franchise.
- July 1993** – NBC acquires the rights to broadcast the Sentinel Olympic Games in Atlanta.
- November 1993** – "Keshet Broadcasting" goes on air and immediately becomes a market factor.
- September 5<sup>th</sup> 1994** – 22 years to the day since the Munich tragedy – Alex Gilady is elected in Paris as the first ever Israeli Member of the International Olympic Committee. His election swept an overwhelming support from both TV industry and the media. John Rodda wrote in the "Observer"; "Israel's first Member, Alex Gilady, knows more about television and the Olympics than anyone else". An industry rival, President of Sports for CBS, Neil Pilson wrote: "The designation reflects the confidence Samaranch and the IOC members have in your skills. I have only one question: What took them so long?"
- August 1995** – NBC stunningly acquires the rights to broadcast both the Olympic Games from Sydney 2000 and the Olympic Winter Games from Salt Lake City 2002.
- December 1995** – NBC stuns the world again by acquiring the rights to broadcast the Olympic Games in Athens 2004 and the Games of 2008 as well as the Olympic winter Games of 2006. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, describes Alex Gilady's involvement in the deal as: "Instrumental".