

**1. Swiss bid for 2010 Winter Olympics dealt blow**  
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**By EDUARD MADER, Associated Press**

BERN, Switzerland (September 22, 2002 2:28 p.m. EDT) - The Swiss bid to host the 2010 winter Olympics received a setback Sunday when voters in a key region overwhelmingly refused to shoulder a share of the financing.

Martin Hodler, president of the Swiss bid committee, said he was "sad and disappointed" and that the administrative council would decide Friday whether to withdraw the bid.

"I hope very much that Switzerland will get the games, because it deserves them," said Hodler.

The International Olympic Committee picked the Swiss bid as one of the four finalists only last month. The other three are the Austrian resort of Salzburg; Vancouver in British Columbia; and Pyeongchang, South Korea, with the Canadian and Austrian bids considered the strongest candidates for the decision to be made in Prague, Czech Republic, next July 2.

The crucial Swiss ballot was in the canton, or state, near Bern, where 217,884 voters opposed taking a loan of \$5 million to join in co-financing the national bid. By a similar tally, voters also refused to back a \$10 million loan to expand ice-skating facilities in the region.

Franziska Teuscher, a Green party member of parliament, said she was thrilled by the vote because it shows "the people of Bern would rather take care of basic needs than have a luxury project for the year 2010."

Switzerland bid to host the 2006 Olympic games, but lost to Torino, Italy.

The country has hosted the winter Olympics twice - in 1928 and 1948 - at St. Moritz.

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**2. Berne Voters Reject 2010 Winter Games**  
**By Jon Cox**  
**September 22, 2002**

ZURICH (Reuters) - Berne voters have rejected by over three to one a call by organizers for cash to help pay for the 2010 Winter Olympics and the Swiss capital is almost certain to pull out of the race.

"I would say so, yes," Martin Hodler, head of the organising committee said, when asked if Berne will withdraw its bid in the light of a referendum held over the weekend.

A final decision will be taken on Friday by Berne 2010 Ltd., the company set up to run the bid. "But you can imagine with such a vote what the decision will be," said Hodler.

Berne, Austria's Salzburg, Canada's Vancouver and South Korea's Pyeong Chang are on the International Olympic Committee's short-list to host the

prestigious event.

"We are disappointed, we are a bit sad," said Hodler. "The sports education (being a good loser) will help us cope with defeat," the former Swiss national golfer added.

Under Switzerland's form of direct democracy, a 15-million Swiss franc (\$10.1 million) cash call for an Olympic stadium and authorisation for 7.5 million francs to prepare for the Games had to be approved by voters.

Both calls were rejected in a total vote of around 107,000 with 77.6 percent against stadium cash and 78.5 percent against the preparations money.

An IOC official ahead of the vote said that even if Berne withdrew from the race, there would still be three other cities running for the event.

Swiss hostility to holding the Games has grown as a result of cost overruns at Switzerland's 2002 Expo national exhibition.

#### SIMPLE SHOWDOWN

The 2010 venue will be chosen by the IOC next July and with the likely withdrawal of Berne it now looks to be a straight showdown between Vancouver and Salzburg.

The Canadian city is regarded as the favorite, while Pyeong Chang is a rank outsider.

It is unusual for a bidder to drop out as the selection process enters its crucial phase.

Berne had already paid \$100,000 just to be one of the original eight venues involved in the campaign before the final short-list was announced.

Three years ago Switzerland went very close to winning the right to stage the Games for the first time since 1948 when they were held in St Moritz.

Sion launched a strong bid to host the 2006 Games but lost out to the Italian city of Turin.

Switzerland has a long tradition of winter sports and sent a team to the first Winter Games in 1924 before St Moritz hosted the second Winter Olympics four years later.

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### **3. Facts from Swissinfo.org**

- Almost four out of five voters in Bern reject Olympic bid financing plan.
- Switzerland hosted the first winter Olympic Games in 1948.
- This is Bern's fourth bid since 1969.
- Sion was defeated by Turin to host the 2006 Games.

Bern's Olympic dream falters  
swissinfo September 22, 2002 5:29 PM

The voters of Bern have firmly rejected plans to fund the city's 2010 Winter Olympics bid - effectively killing off the city's candidature.

Bid organisers conceded on Sunday that the refusal by voters to approve an SFr 22.5 million (\$15 million) bid package would force the city to pull out of the Olympic race.

Almost four in five Bernese voted no to two Olympic related questions.

Martin Hodler, the president of Bern's bid committee, told swissinfo he was "sad and disappointed" by the result.

"There is a certain surprise that the pessimistic attitude of the Bernese people is so strong," Hodler said.

Hodler said voters had been scared off supporting an Olympics because of fears about the city's finances, pension funds and the ever-burgeoning cost of the national exhibition, Expo 02.

"They really got frightened," Hodler said.

Hodler indicated that Bern's bid was likely to be terminated by the Bern 2010 committee at its next meeting on Friday.

Bern - which is bidding for the Winter Games for the fourth time since 1969 - has been shortlisted as one of four possible 2010 host cities, along with Vancouver (Canada), Salzburg (Austria) and South Korea's Pyeongchang.

Bern 2010 "is dead"

Leading pro-Olympic campaigner Rolf Portmann said the result meant "the idea of Bern 2010 is dead".

Portmann expressed surprise at the strength of the no vote, and said he hoped those who had opposed Bern's Olympic bid would now help develop alternative strategies for the city's future.

Dres von Weissenfluh, general director of the bid group, said there was little option but for the city to withdraw.

The Bernese were asked to decide on two issues - whether to support funding worth SFr15 million for a new ice rink in Bern and other sporting facilities in the canton, along with whether to approve credit worth SFr7.5 million for Bern 2010, the company set up to organise and promote the bid.

Hard times

Bern 2010 and its supporters appear to have failed to convince sceptical voters, despite a well-funded campaign.

Among hurdles the group failed to clear, was a Bernese population wary of funding large projects. Voters have already faced repeated calls for extra funding for the country's troubled national exhibition, Expo.02.

In, addition, Bern's cantonal government - one of the nation's poorest - added to voter discontent by announcing plans to minimise the canton's SFr11 billion debt.

In a bid to save SFr1 billion between 2003 and 2006, it intends to shed 570 jobs among civil servants, teaching staff and employees of subsidised companies in the canton.

#### Controversy

Bern's bid to host the 2010 Winter Olympic Games has been dogged by controversy from the outset.

Critics claimed that Bern has neither the money nor the facilities for such an endeavour and that the city could not compete with the current favourites, Vancouver and Salzburg.

But the bid's supporters argued that the Games would boost Bern's importance as a centre for winter sports, as well as put the city and Switzerland firmly in the international spotlight.

Organisers estimated profits of between SFr1.4 and SFr2.6 billion from the event, which would create between 550 and 1000 jobs.

Hodler said Switzerland was unlikely to have any hope of launching a winning bid before 2018.

#### IOC doubts

After announcing Bern's shortlisting, the IOC warned that the city's bid did "not best respond to the needs of the athletes and could create significant organisational difficulties".

Hodler said, however, that the criticisms did not mean Bern's bid would have been doomed - pointing to critical IOC reviews of Beijing ahead of its ultimate win.

(swissinfo)

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#### **4. Swiss Bid rejected in Referendum. (radio) CKNW - 12 noon, September 22, 2002.**

The Swiss Bid to host the 2010 Winter Olympics received a set back today. When voters in a key region overwhelmingly refused to shoulder a share of the financing.

Martin Hobbler (sp?) President of the Swiss Bid Committee said he was sad and disappointed, and that the administrative council would decide Friday whether to withdraw the Bid.

The vote comes as good news for the Vancouver- Whistler Bid, which along

with the Austrian Bid are considered the strongest candidates for the decision to be made in Prague next July 2nd.

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**5. Sunday, September 22, 2002**  
**Swiss Voters Reject Berne's 2010 Winter Olympic Bid**  
**Posted 3:31 pm ET (GB Staff)**

More than 107,000 voters who turned out for Sunday's referendum rejected Berne's bid for the 2010 Winter Olympics. About 77.6 per cent voted against the stadium cash and 79.5 per cent were against the preparation costs.

Under Swiss law voters had the final say over allotting a further 5-million Swiss francs (\$10.1 million U.S.) for an Olympic stadium and 7.5 million francs in new preparation costs.

According to a Berne 2010 press release, the Berne Executive Board will decide formally on the withdrawal of the Berne candidacy at the end of the week.

"Based on the signals from the majority of voters, it is however assumed that the candidature application now before the International Olympic Committee will be withdrawn", says the press release.

The Berne 2010 committee blamed, "the poor economic climate and related caution in Canton Berne" (which) "may have had a great influence on the election results".

Martin Hodler, head of the Berne Olympic organizing committee said, "we are disappointed, we are a bit sad".

Franziska Teuscher, a Green party member of parliament, said she was thrilled by the vote because it shows "the people of Berne would rather take care of basic needs than have a luxury project for the year 2010".

As a candidate city Berne has already paid \$100,000 in fees and would have been required to pay an additional \$500,000 in February or March to cover the costs of having an assessment of its venues.

There are now three cities in the race - Salzburg Austria, Vancouver Canada and Pyeongchang South Korea. GamesBids.com's BidIndex for Berne will remain halted until the bid makes a formal announcement on their candidacy - likely this Friday.

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**6. 20/09/02, 16:03**  
**Olympics-2010 race looks set for Vancouver-Salzburg showdown**

LONDON (Reuters) - Switzerland, the home of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), may have to take the embarrassing step this weekend of pulling out of the race to stage the 2010 Winter Olympics as it enters the final lap.

Less than a month ago, the Swiss capital of Berne was chosen with Canada's Vancouver, Austria's Salzburg, and South Korea's Pyeong Chang on the final

shortlist of candidates for the Games, the venue of which will be chosen by the IOC next July.

But it emerged on Friday that Swiss voters might reject a call by organisers for cash to help pay for the event in a referendum at the weekend, forcing Berne to ditch their campaign before the IOC has even had time to visit its proposed venues.

The IOC's 2010 vote now looks likely to be a simple showdown between Vancouver and Salzburg. The Canadian city is regarded as the favourite, while Pyeong Chang is a rank outsider.

It is unusual for a bidder to drop out as the selection process enters its crucial phase. Berne has already paid \$100,000 just to be one of the original eight venues involved in the campaign before the final shortlist was announced.

Each candidate reaching the final stage was set to pay \$500,000 to cover the costs of visits to the venues by an IOC team of experts in February and March.

"The vote is critical. If it is a strong 'no' we will withdraw the bid although if it is closer, say 49-51 percent, we would analyse the situation," said Silvio Weilenmann, spokesman for the Berne organising committee.

Under Switzerland's form of direct democracy, a 15-million Swiss franc (\$10.1 million) cash call for an Olympic stadium and authorisation for 7.5 million francs to prepare for the Games has to be approved by voters in a referendum. The result is expected late on Sunday.

Stadium funds are expected to be approved but voters seem set to reject funding for the Games.

#### SION BID

Three years ago Switzerland went very close to winning the right to stage the Games for the first time since 1948, when they were held in St Moritz.

Sion launched a very strong bid to host the 2006 Games but lost out in an IOC vote in Seoul to the Italian city of Turin.

Without local support it would be virtually impossible for Berne to persuade the IOC to choose the city in the 2010 vote of all IOC members in Prague.

Berne was already struggling to make up ground on Vancouver and Salzburg after an IOC report on the eight original candidates published last month said its project "did not best respond to the needs of the athletes".

Pyeong Chang's bid was also deemed to need further development in the report, which praised the Canadian and Austrian bids.

Switzerland has a long tradition for winter sports and sent a team to the

first Winter Games in 1924 before St Moritz hosted the second Winter Olympics four years later.

The country has often boasted key figures at the highest level of the IOC including former alpine skiing chief Marc Hodler, who has been responsible for coordinating successful Winter Games in the past.

The IOC is based in Lausanne on the banks of Lake Geneva. The international federations of other Olympic sports have also moved their headquarters to the Swiss town.

But Swiss hostility to holding the Games has grown as a result of cost overruns at Switzerland's 2002 Expo national exhibition.

The four venues which were eliminated from the race by the IOC in August were China's Harbin, Spain's Jaca, Sarajevo, the host of the 1984 Games, and the principality of Andorra.

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## **7. Swiss city may drop its bid for 2010 Olympics**

**The Vancouver Province**

**Sun 22 Sep 2002**

**News A8**

**Business; Sports**

**Damian Inwood**

Switzerland's Olympic bid could be suffering from "Berne-out." And the number of cities bidding to host the 2010 Winter Games may be down to three tomorrow.

Today's referendum of Berne residents on whether to pump \$8 million into the Games bid is heading for a "no" vote, according to a Reuters report.

If Berne rejects the Games, Vancouver will be left competing against Salzburg, Austria, and Pyeongchang, South Korea, for the 2010 Olympics.

"As competitors, we hate to see them go but we certainly wish them the best in the future," said Vancouver 2010 bid spokeswoman Michele Penz. "But in the spirit of competition, hopefully they won't go and we'll continue to compete with them until the end."

She said Berne has a good plan and an "extraordinary sports tradition."

According to Reuters, Berne is "braced to pull out of the race" amid indications that voters will vote against spending the money.

"The vote is critical. If it is a strong 'no' we will withdraw the bid although if it is closer, say 49 to 51 per cent, we would analyze the situation," said Silvio Weilenmann, spokesman for the Berne organizing committee.

Under Switzerland's form of direct democracy, a \$16-million cash call for an Olympic stadium and authorization for \$8 million to prepare for the Games has to be approved by voters in the referendum.

The result is expected later today.

The stadium funds are expected to be approved but voters seem set to reject funding for the Games.

This would trigger Berne's withdrawal from the race, Berne officials say, as the International Olympic Committee would be unlikely to pick the city without local popular support.

"If Berne decides to step down, that is a decision of the city and doesn't concern the IOC," an IOC official said. "We will still have three candidates."

Swiss hostility to holding the Games has grown because of cost overruns at Switzerland's 2002 Expo national exhibition.

Switzerland last hosted the Winter Olympics in 1948 in St. Moritz.

Meanwhile, in Toronto, GamesBids.com, an organization which tracks the progress of bid cities, has pulled Berne from its bid index, pending the result of the referendum.

The index, which takes into account a variety of factors, correctly forecast Beijing's win over Toronto to host the 2008 Summer Games.

The index shows Salzburg leading at 63.83, Vancouver second with 61.24 and Pyeongchang with 50.46.

When Berne was halted, it was in third place with a rating of 56.56.

The IOC decides on the winning bid in Prague on July 2, 2003.

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Final  
The Province  
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## **8. Switzerland set to pull 2010 bid**

**Reuters**

**Saturday, September 21, 2002 - Print Edition, Page S3**

**Globe and Mail**

London -- Switzerland, home of the International Olympic Committee, may have to pull out of the race to stage the 2010 Winter Olympics. Less than a month ago, the Swiss capital of Berne was chosen with Vancouver, Salzburg, Austria, and Pyeong Chang, South Korea on the short list of candidate hosts. However, Berne's candidacy will be put to a vote in a referendum this weekend, and if voters reject organizers' call for cash to help pay for the event, that likely would be the end of it. The IOC will announce the winner next July, and the choice now seems likely to be between Vancouver and Salzburg, with Vancouver the favourite.