

# The 65th I.O.C. session in Tehran



For the first time in its history, the I.O.C. held its session in Asia Minor. On the invitation of its member, H. I. H. Prince Gholam Reza Pahlavi, President of the National Iranian Olympic Committee, fifty-seven I.O.C. members and a hundred and three delegates, representing sixty-three National Olympic Committees, arrived in Tehran at the end of April and the beginning of May. On 3rd May, the Executive Board of the I.O.C. and the National Olympic Committees met together and went over matters of common interest with positive results. Two days later, during an official ceremony in Ferdowsi Hall at the University of Tehran, the International Olympic Committee's 65th session was opened by H. I. M. the Shah accompanied by H. I. M. the Shahbanou. Three days of session then followed during which much hard work was done on questions which had arisen during the year and on problems concerning the current Olympiad and the Olympic Movement. The essential points of the minutes of these meetings can be found in this Bulletin.

Before we go on with an account of our Persian visit and recall its unforgettable moments and places, we must pay homage to the Iranian National Olympic Committee, to its President and to its Secretary General, Mr. Amir Amin, who did all they could, and more, for the well-being of their guests and for the smooth running of the meetings. The difficult task of organizing an olympic session was further complicated by the needs of many commissions, more numerous than ever before, of delegations which were also strongly represented and also by a considerable

number of unforeseen occurrences. The devotion of the organizers and their desire to satisfy the needs and wishes of each person present in the most courteous way possible must be mentioned and we thank them most sincerely for all they did. Above all, we remember the gracious welcome given to the members of the I.O.C. and the N.O.C's by Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Empress Farah, first in the gardens of one of the imperial residences in Tehran and later during a reception in Shiraz to which, unexpectedly and in a delightfully spontaneous manner, she invited the enchanted members who were there at the time.

The members of the I.O.C., on the invitation of the Iranian Olympic Committee visited Isfahan, Shiraz and fabulous Persepolis, situated on a plain at the foot of a rust coloured hill. For many the most impressive moment of this visit was perhaps the illumination of the sky-blue and gold mosques and minarets and of the lace-like palaces of Isfahan, a spectacle which had been arranged especially for the visitors by the Governor of the province who was their host. The Friday Mosque was also much admired for its simplicity and its inspired arches. Although our visit did not end in Persepolis, the revelation of the ancient city was the climax of our stay in Iran.

We are indebted to our Iranian hosts for having enabled us to see all this. Our gratitude stems from two sources : the friendship which joins us to them and the admiration we hold for their past and their civilization.

