

To the chefs de mission of the National Olympic Committees

by Juan Antonio Samaranch

In his capacity as Chief of Protocol of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Juan Antonio SAMARANCH called together, on 29th January in Tokyo, all the chefs de mission to remind them in what spirit the official ceremonies of the Games should take place. We are printing below the text of his address.

May I take this opportunity of welcoming you and your teams to Sapporo and the XIth Winter Olympic Games and extending to you my best wishes for your every success.

The best reward for anyone who has spent many years in preparation is surely to have the honour of participating, not only in the competitions, but in the Opening Ceremony as well. This ceremony holds a special meaning and all the teams (without the exception of any individual) must attend. It is the time for all athletes of the world to gather in deep concentration before the events to follow and to stand united as representatives of a common ideal.

of all the meetings and celebrations which take place, this ceremony offers the best opportunity for reflection in remembrance of those who revived the Olympic Games and those responsible for holding them in Sapporo. The Opening Ceremony must



be considered a tribute to the organisers and, today, to our Japanese friends. It serves also to acknowledge all Olympic champions who gave the Olympic Games its formidable renown throughout the world.

Do not forget that the whole world is watching you, looking out for their fellow-citizens in this parade and especially the most famous among them. This is the best opportunity for the athletes to acknowledge the spectators of the world. Do not disappoint them, as has happened in previous Games when some of the best performers avoided being present.

I would also like to emphasise that attending the Opening Ceremony is a question of loyalty. This is the meeting of goodwill and fraternity so, before the start of the competitions, involving the extremes of battles and strife, let everybody join in one voice to salute Olympism, this high ideal of comradeship, and

forget all differences in belief, race, and even physical ability.

It is, therefore, your duty to explain to the athletes in your delegations the reasons why they have been invited to the Opening Ceremony and why their presence is of such importance. Any athlete who excuses himself from the parade is guilty of not only a gross impoliteness but also cheating and damaging the moral value of the Games.

Looking back to what has happened at previous Games, I felt it might be useful to call you all together to remind you of the way in which the participants should behave at this manifestation.

Strict but voluntary discipline must be observed by everyone, as much during the Closing Ceremony, which should not take the form of utter confusion but express recognition and thanks to our hosts and acclaim the winners and competitors, as during the opening Ceremony.

The behaviour of your athletes and officials comprising your delegations is therefore of the utmost importance in creating an atmosphere of solemnity, friendship and dignity at this rendez-vous in the stadium.

I would therefore remind you of some practical details:

1/ All participants should walk correctly. Athletes are not permitted to wave handkerchiefs, flags (other than those authorised to do so for their country), signs, etc. Leave this to the enthusiastic spectators!

2/ Clothing for the parades should conform with the country's uniform or

national dress. Do not let any athlete 'decorate' or change the outfit he has been issued for the occasion.

3/ As is written into Rule 49 of the IOC Rules and Regulations, no still or ciné cameras, or any other similar, equipment can be carried by the athletes for use during the ceremonies. Remember that professional photographers are grouped into pools and only certain of them are allowed in the stadium - do not allow your athletes to do their job!

4/ It is forbidden to break the ranks for any reason in the stadium. All athletes must keep their places until the end of either ceremony. Naturally, this does not apply to someone who is taken ill suddenly.

It has always been necessary to hold someone responsible for any irregularities. Therefore, under such circumstances, this will be you, as Chefs de Mission, for your respective countries, should the occasion ever arise: I am, of course, optimistic that this will not be necessary.

I thank you in advance for your consistent co-operation in making the Games run smoothly so that they command the respect they rightfully deserve.

J. A. S.

