

Welcoming Address

by Mr. Jacques de Millo,
President of the “Comité Olympique Monégasque”

This country, Your Highness, owes, the protection of its independence to its fidelity to Your Dynasty and to the attachment that She has devoted to it. It owes its strength to the symbol it represents and its sole power to that of the faith it allows to enjoy in human wisdom.

This country, Mr. President, in the name of which I have the high honour to greet you, sees in your visit a happy omen for the National European Olympics Committees offering them the homage of its rare example of unity, equilibrium and stability, testimony of what the faith of a small number can obtain when it appeals to the more noble sentiments of humanity. This country, Mr. President, my dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, thanks you to have chosen its surroundings for your assembly and hopes that at this time when your decisions will weigh on the future of the Movement that they will contribute to preserve to the Olympics’

ideal the world youth’s faith without which the Olympics celebration would become a fair condemned to vanish in the conflict of interests which tend to invade it...

... Three quarters of a century have passed during which we have contributed our devotion to the IOC and a half a century that we have been participating in the Olympic games. This explains the audacity which has permitted me to address to our President this cry of alarm motivated by my fear to see the European committees divide themselves on personal points or even on doctrine, although it appears to me that in the rapid evolution of the Olympics world the grasp of the Europeans’ position would take a determining value and would create an irreversible impulse.

If we ourselves appeared to withdraw from the IOC, the NOC’s of the other continents would tend to become organiza-



Jacques de Millo, president of the Comité Olympique Monégasque, delivers his speech. At the tribune, Mrs. Monique Berlioux, IOC Director, Lord Killanin, IOC president, Count Jean de Beaumont, ENOC president and Mr. Jean Weymann, secretary general of the ENOC.

tions expressing national wills and to constitute together a sort of parliament which would hope, as all parliaments, to achieve the legislative initiative and executive control.

This which appears normal in politics, has no sense in ideology; and it is us, Europeans, who must clarify the ideas in analysing lucidly the facts of the problem in adopting an appropriate solution and in proposing it for our Colleagues' consideration . . .

. . . In assembling at Versailles, you have, Mr. President, materialized the bond which united us and answered to the need created by the birth of other continental groups. It Remains to endow ourselves with an executive capable of presenting our general concepts without, nevertheless, diminishing our independence of word and action . . .

. . . It is not in a few months that we will be able to concert with one another's answers to the questions which the Olym-

pits' Congress will present. A European council will be able to inform itself, inform us and propose solutions and synthesize our opinions; in brief, to release a European thought and to give it the maximum effectiveness.

If, in concluding, my dear Colleagues, you orient during this assembly the relation of NOC/IOC in the sense of an intimate cooperation and, if, you allow yourselves the means of expressing your opinions, the life of the Olympic Movement will have drawn from our walls a new force and we will be proud of the historical page which you will have written.

. . . Do forgive my conviction for having in this aim formulated more precise wishes than are customary and allow us to finally hope that after accomplishing your task you will be able to glean from this sea and from this rock the memory of a fervent welcome, a peaceful sejour and a fruitful deed.

J. de Millo