



Surrounding Lord Killanin, from left to right: Mr. Rolf Edling, World Fencing champion in 1973 (épée), Mr. Gunnar Larsson, Mr. Björn Ferm, Mrs. Ulla Hakansson, 3rd in the dressage in Munich, Mrs. Toini Rönnlund-Gustafsson, Mr. Hans Lagerqvist, pole-vaulter (7th in Munich) and Mr. Jan Karlsson, 2nd and 3rd in wrestling in Munich.

Lord Killanin in Sweden for the 60th anniversary of the “Sveriges Olympiska Kommitte”

The President of the IOC spent from 15th to 17th November amongst his many Swedish friends. He joined them in the commemoration of the creation of their National Olympic Committee in 1913. On behalf of Olympism, he brought the thanks of the IOC for their efforts in favour of Olympic ideas.

Sweden has been attached to the Olympic Movement since the renovation of the Games, and general V.G. Balck, “Father of Swedish Sport” was elected member of the first IOC.



H.M. King Karl XVI and the President of the IOC, Lord Killanin.

Upon the initiative of the latter, the Swedish Olympic Committee emerged in 1905. Up until 1911, it was not a permanent committee. After the success of the Stockholm Olympic Games, organised in 1912, Colonel V.G. Balck became the mainspring of the first office of the real committee created on 27th April 1913. In sixty years its successes have been innumerable¹ but explain themselves: the Committee always succeeds in recruiting leaders of the highest rank.

It was during the annual meeting of the Swedish Olympic Committee on 16th November, that Lord Killanin stressed in particular the importance of the present work undertaken by all Swedish sports associations within the National Olympic Committee and of the Swedish sports federations, in order to continue to be worthy of this glorious past. 50 delegates from 25 out of 26 federations affiliated to the Swedish Olympic Committee were present.

During his visit, several important working meetings allowed the President to study the present Olympic problems with those responsible. In this way he spent a whole morning meeting representatives of the Nordic National Olympic Committees amongst whom were Mr. Ivar Vind, IOC member and President of the Danish Olympic Committee, Mr. Johann Chr. Schönheyder, Secretary General of the Norwegian Olympic Committee, Messrs. Karlo Hartiala, member of the Executive Committee and Magnus Stalberg, Secretary General of the Finnish Olympic Committee, and several high ranking leaders of sport in Sweden, including Gen Sven Thofelt, IOC member and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Swedish Olympic Committee, Mr. Bo Bengtson, Secretary General of the Swedish Olympic Committee, Mr. Sigge Bergman, Secretary General of the Fédéra-



Round table with sportsmen: Lord Killanin from behind and on his left: Gen. Sven Thofelt, IOC member for Sweden and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Olympic Committee, Mr. Gunnar Larsson, Mr. Hans Lagerqvist, Mrs. Toini Rönnlung-Gustafsson, Mr. Wolf Lyberg, press attaché for the Swedish Olympic Committee, Mrs. Ulla Hakansson, Mr. Björn Ferm.

tion Internationale de Ski, Mr. Paul Högberg, President of the Fédération Internationale de Handball... The theme chosen... The IOC after Varna... being so broad, lays itself open to many questions.

Lord Killanin then visited the King of Sweden, H.M. Karl XVI. In the afternoon, the President met Mr. Svante Lundkvist, Minister of Agriculture and in charge of sport, his predecessor Mr. Ingemund Bengtsson, now Minister of Work, as well as His Majesty's representative on the Executive Committee of the Swedish Sports Federation, Mr. Ulf Lönnqvist.

In his thank you letter to his hosts, the President of the IOC said how much he had appreciated the friendly and useful meeting which had been held with wellknown sportsmen such as Mrs. Toni Rönnlung-Gustafsson, double Olympic champion in cross-country skiing in 1968, Mr. Gunnar Larsson, double Olympic swimming champion in 1972 and Mr. Björn Ferm, Olympic champion in modern pentathlon in 1972.

¹ The study "Sweden and Olympism" will prove this. This article, being prepared with the assistance of Mr. Wolf Lyberg, will appear on a forthcoming contents' page.