

## ...and Santo Domingo

On 25th February, Lord Killanin left New York for the Caribbean and more precisely for Santo Domingo, where he attended the XIIIth Central American and Caribbean Games from 27th February to 13th March.

The programme of events comprised 18 sports and 23 countries took part in the celebration of these Games.

The organisation was placed in the hands of Mr. Juan Ulises Garcia Saleta, President of the NOC of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Bienvenido Martinez Bréa and Mr. Federico Medrano Basiliis, President and Director respectively of the Organising Committee.

The sports installations were worthy of the largest sports meeting and very well equipped, in particular the velodrome which is one of the first in the world to answer to the new technical requirements of the FIAC.

A most grandiose opening ceremony was organised in the Olympic style. H. E. Dr. Joaquin Balaguer, President of the Dominican Republic, delivered the traditional opening speech.

Then as guest of honour, Lord Killanin had the privilege of raising the Olympic flag, while Mr. José Beracasa A., President of the ODECABE, raised the flag of the Games. The flame was lit by Mr. Alberto Torres (photograph), the first athlete from the Dominican Republic to participate at the Olympic Games (the 100m in Tokyo 1964).

There was a marked and wonderful spirit of friendship and understanding in the competitions, and the performances reflected the great progress made in all fields by the athletes present.

Unfortunately Lord Killanin and Mr. Banks were unable to attend all the events as the first International Symposium organised by the IOC's Olympic Solidarity was being held at the same time from 2nd to 5th March.

Lord Killanin delivered the introductory speech, then Mr. Giulio Onesti, the Coordinator, gave a presentation of the work. Lectures were then given by Mr.

Cagigal (Spain), Mr. E. Buggel (GDR), Mr. Rivera Cortes (Mexico), Mr. A. Venerando, Mr. Clerici (Italy), and Mr. E. Wieczorek, Secretary to the Coordinator, on the various subjects on the programme and dealing both with sport in present day society and problems of training, infrastructure and organisation. Representatives of the 23 NOCs had been invited, and their presence showed clearly the great interest aroused by the Olympic Solidarity programme in the Central American and Caribbean countries. This symposium, the first of its kind, was a tremendous success, and those present were unanimous in their warm thanks to Mr. Garcia Saleta and his wife, through whose efforts this meeting had been organised so well.

At the same time the following telegram was sent to Lord Killanin:

*The participants of Olympic Solidarity's first symposium in Santo Domingo express their sincere thanks for the IOC's important contribution to the promotion of the Olympic ideal and to the development of sport in our region. Congratulations and thanks also to the Coordinator, Mr. Giulio Onesti, the Director of the symposium, Mr. Edouard Wieczorek and all the lecturers. We hope that this first activity of Olympic Solidarity will be followed very shortly by others. Respectfully,*

*NOC representative members of the ODECABE.*

Shortly after the closing of the Games, the President of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Joaquin Balaguer, presented Lord Killanin, President of the IOC, with the Duarte Sanchez and Mella Grand Order of Merit, for his great work at the head of the IOC, and to Mr. José Bercasa A., President of the ODECABE, for his work in favour of Latin-American amateur sport and for his contribution to the organisation of the XIth Central American and Caribbean Games.

