



CITIUS - ALTIUS - FORTIUS

**Message from Lord Killanin, President  
of the International Olympic Committee,  
upon the 80th anniversary of the re-  
establishment of the Olympic Games**

Eighty years ago, on 23rd June 1894, 80 delegates from all over the world enthusiastically voted in favour of the re-establishment of the Olympic Games and the creation of an International Olympic Committee, and awarded the celebration of the Games of the 1st Olympiad in 1896 to Athens.

This was the consummation of years of untiring effort, and Baron Pierre de Coubertin thus saw his courage and tenacity rewarded. Becoming the President of the IOC in 1896, he was to apply himself throughout his term of office to preserving the Committee's absolute independence, spreading its action and increasing its prestige and renown throughout the world. When he died in 1937 the Olympic movement was internationally known and respected; the Olympic Games had acquired such power that, with the Second World War scarcely over, their organisation was considered.

On this 80th anniversary of its foundation the IOC would like to remind the amateur sportsmen of the world of their debt to Pierre de Coubertin, and, above all, this possibility to meet together every four years in this great, peaceful festival of youth, the Olympic Games. But the IOC is fully aware that the Olympic ideal cannot simply be put into effect once every four years. It is an education to be practised every moment, and which finds its outcome and supreme manifestation in the Games.

The IOC wishes, on this anniversary day, to emphasize Coubertin's noble thoughts, and asks everyone, sportsmen and pedagogues alike, to contribute to the best of their ability to the worldwide development of the Olympic spirit.

LORD KILLANIN