



# 12th-26th October 1975: Mexico



## The 7th Pan American Games



*Mr. Mario Vazquez Rana and Mr. Octavio Senties Gomez inspecting the velodrome in Mexico.*

● After a good number of unforeseen difficulties and changes of site, the 7th Pan American Games will open as planned on 12th October in Mexico, under the honorary presidency of Lord Killanin, President of the IOC.

Mr. Mario Vazquez Raña, President of the Mexican Olympic Committee and of the Organising Committee for the 7th Pan American Games, stresses in a recent information bulletin that this is the first time that a President of the IOC will also be Honorary President of a regional sports competition.

### **But what are the Pan American Games?**

Outcome of the first Pan American Sports Congress, forerunner of the present PASO, which was held in Buenos Aires in 1940, the first Games should have taken place in that city in 1942. However, events determined otherwise and the first edition, assembling 2513 athletes, did not take place in the Argentinian capital until 1951.

Every four years they successively visited Mexico (1955), Chicago (1959), Sao Paulo (1963), Winnipeg (1967) and Cali (1971). finally to find themselves again in Mexico in 1975 after Santiago and Sao Paulo had in turn been forced to renounce their organisation.

Only Mexico, owing to the installations which it had inherited from the celebration of the XIXth Olympiad, and especially to the support of HE Luis Eche-

verria Alvarez, President of the Republic, and of Mr. Octavio Senties Gomez, Mayor of Mexico, could undertake this hazardous venture at such short notice.

Under the leadership of Mr. Mario Vazquez Raña, the dynamic President of the Mexican NOC, everything was soon under way. The Organising Committee set itself three objectives:

- to make sure that the cost of the organisation remains reasonable, particularly by using the various installations already on site,
- to obtain the largest possible participation of the Mexican youth in the organisation of these Games,
- to maintain Mexico's reputation as an organising city and host among all the neighbouring countries of the American continent.

With several months still to go before the opening, one can state here and now that these objectives have largely been reached and that the 1975 edition of the Pan American Games will be a credit to the city of Mexico.

The Pan American village, a group of buildings specially built for the purpose and located to the south of the city, will soon be welcoming the three thousand participants expected from 32 countries of the American continent, and the wonderful installations for the Mexico Games will once again resound to the achievements of this continent's youth.

### *The Aztec stadium.*

