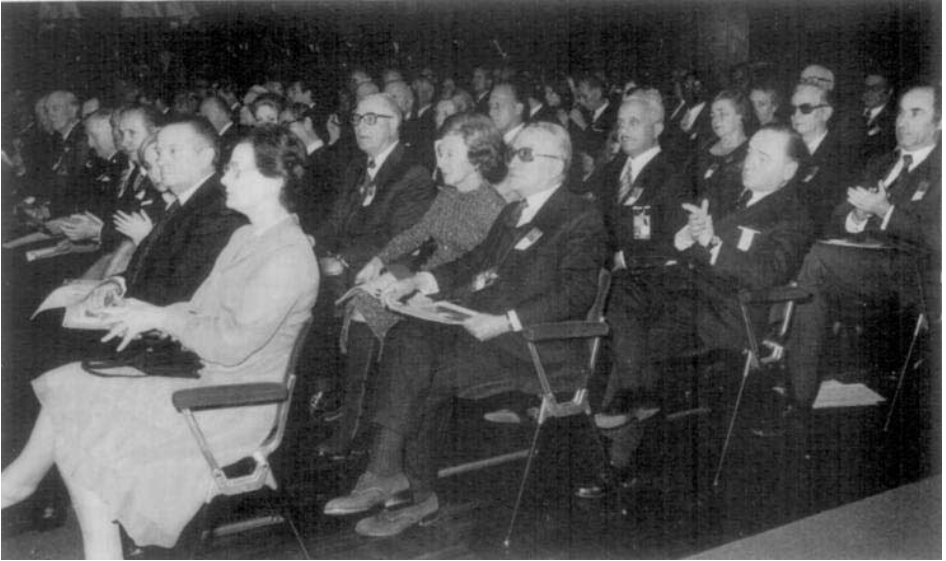


Innsbruck, 1st February 1976

Official opening of the 77th Session of the International Olympic Committee



The opening ceremony of the Session. In this general shot, we recognise: (first row) Lady Killanin, Mr. Willi Daume (Germany), Mr. and Mrs. Juan Antonio Samaranch (Spain), Major Sylvio de Magalhaes Padilha (Brazil), the Marquess of Exeter (Great Britain), Mr. Erik von Frenckell (Finland); (second row) Baron and Baroness de Guell (Spain), Mr. Douglas F. Roby (United States); (third row) Mr. Włodzimierz Reczek (Poland), Mr. Mohammed Benjelloun (Morocco), Mr. Joao Havelange (Brazil); (fourth row) Mr. Mohamed Mzali (Tunisia), Dr. and Mrs. Heinz Schöbel (GDR).

Speech by Lord Killanin, President of the International Olympic Committee

Mr. Minister, Mr. Mayor, President of the Austrian National Olympic Committee, Your Excellencies, Colleagues and Friends,

We are gathered here together at Innsbruck on the eve of the XIth Winter Games. This is the second time in two years that we have held a Session of the International Olympic Committee in Austria and I am sure sportsmen throughout the world are most grateful to Innsbruck under its Mayor, Dr. Lugger, and the Austrian National Olympic Committee under the presidency of Dr. Kurt Heller, for enabling the Winter Games to be held.

As you all know, Innsbruck stepped in to assist when Denver, which had been allocated the Games, withdrew its invitation. On behalf of all, that is, the International Olympic Committee, the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees, and the Innsbruck Organising Committee, I hope that these Games pass off satisfactorily, and with no untoward incident, to assist the spreading of the Olympic movement and ideals.

At the opening of Sessions, since I was elected President, I have concentrated on the Olympic movement in general. In this Olympic year, I feel it is correct to speak more of the Games. The Montreal Organising Committee will be reporting on the progress for the Games, which are due to open on July 17th, to the full Session of the International Olympic Committee tomorrow.

Denver's withdrawal, the heavy costs of staging the Games at short notice for Innsbruck, and the problems which the Organising Committee in Montreal have had to face, oblige me to make some comment on the organisation and costs of the Games. Unfortunately, the question of money and finance is mentioned all the time. The last thing in the world that the International Olympic Committee, or those associated with it, wish to do is to waste money and encourage extravagance in the cost of the Games. With world-wide inflation and varying values of money, it is inevitable that costs must increase, but they must be curtailed. The increasing number of sports and participants and the welcome development of different sports especially by new Olympic Committees, together with the increasing participation of women, also contribute. These causes for the increases are good and positive, but they must not encourage organisers to run into wasteful extravagance.

Comparison of costings of various Olympic Games is 'extremely difficult. The basic costs, which are the facilities required for the Games, whether they be stadia, technical facilities or accomodation for athletes, the media or visitors, do increase, but we have repeatedly stated that we do not wish any facilities to be built which are not of benefit to the city or country subsequently.

The costs of the Games come under two headings:

- 1. The basic capital costs—these should be long term investments of value to the cities or places in which the Games take place. There is nearly always a demand for sporting facilities and housing.*
- 2. The running and administration costs—against which must be reckoned the invisible earnings of publicity and tourism, besides gate receipts, TV rights and other contributions, including gross foreign revenue from participants and spectators.*

One cannot overstress to any National Olympic Committee, which may be seeking the Games in the future, that they must not overlook the importance of careful planning and budgeting well before they make their submission to the IOC—the next occasion will be in 1978 for the Games of 1984.

No one deplores an extravagance of money more than myself and I feel at times the athletes must be cynical when on the one hand we are endeavouring to control their normal training and competition expenses and on the other hand they read of massive expenditure and accusations of extravagance in host cities.

The Olympic men and women, that is, all those who are responsible in the organisation of or participation in the great double sports festival of the Winter Games and the Olympic Games, must accept their responsibilities.

First of all there is the International Olympic Committee, which is the trustee and catalyst for the Olympic Games. It is the duty of the IOC to watch over the celebration of the Games, and ensure their dignity, their smooth running and their continued expansion in the right direction.

The IOC does not in fact look for candidates for the Games, but it is the candidates who apply for the honour of staging the Olympic Games. National Olympic Committees seeking the Games complete a candidate's questionnaire, which includes producing

photographs, diagrams, and the formal promise of support from the civic authorities as well as government sources. The greatest importance is attached to the guarantees from the Head of Government. If the Organising Committee fails in its duty, it also harms the Olympic movement. It inflicts heavy and lasting damage on itself, its country, and the image of its compatriots.

Every newspaper at this moment is carrying information regarding the Innsbruck Winter Games and the Olympic Games in Montreal in July, so deep seated has become the interest and the fame of the Olympic Games throughout the world.

The International federations undertake important obligations for technical facilities and control. The International Federations on the Olympic programme are consulted when the Games are allocated to ensure that the candidates are capable of organising their sports. Organisation does not only mean the capability of erecting facilities, but also the capability of having sports infrastructure within the country to administer the technical side of each sport. This has become more difficult, since the Games in Munich, when the International Olympic Committee agreed to include the maximum number of sports—twenty-one—on the programme, rather than a number above the minimum of fifteen.

Also there are other International Federations with sports suitable for inclusion on the Games programme who are knocking at the door. We would like to accommodate some of these, but a realistic approach must be taken, and that is why at this moment the Programme Commission is reviewing the situation. The example set by the technical administration of each sport is an example of that sport to the rest of the world. Also it promotes the teaching of the sport besides assisting the athletes. Some Federations may be too demanding in their requests, especially for facilities, and this must be faced by those IFs with the IOC to protect the organisers.

The National Olympic Committees, which are formed by the National Federations affiliated to the International Federations, have a solemn duty to select the eligible competitors, on the recommendations of the Federations, to compete in the Olympic Games. The National Olympic Committees are the final arbiters for countersigning the entry forms of each competitor. In the year of the Olympic Games, each National Olympic Committee is omnipotent in the areas under its control.

These three bodies, the IOC, the IFs and the NOCs, together with the Organising Committees, are the administrative nucleus on which all responsibility for the Games falls.

On previous occasions I have spoken of the duties especially of the National Olympic Committees in the interim period.

However, it is the athlete to whom all priority must be given at all times, but especially in the Olympic year. The athletes are the embodiment of the Olympic ideal and it is unfortunate that it is the occasional slip which makes the headlines. This is damaging to a particular sport, the National Olympic Committee, and the Olympic movement as a whole. The responsibility of the participants is unique and the atmosphere engendered in the opening ceremonies is of paramount importance.

Only a limited number of people can attend the Games, because of the restrictions of space (and no one wishes for seating which will remain empty for the years after the Games). It is for this reason that the communications media have the responsibility of informing the world of the Olympic Games and the Olympic movement, whether by writing, photographs, radio or television. Again, the media must be rational in their demands.

Finally there are the officials and judges working with or for the above groups, without whom the Games could not be staged and who have the responsibility of efficient administration or decisions within the Olympic principles.

In a world where there are many differences, we in the Olympic movement strive to find our common denominators, the things we have in common.

We do not wish to interfere in any way with the rights of any country or of any people to govern themselves or develop as they wish. That is not our business. Nor do we wish for political dictation. We are proud to say we are able to gather together sportsmen and women from the left and the right in politics, people from the New, the Old and the Third Worlds, who all are represented on the Executive Board, in an increasing number on the International Olympic Committee, in the International Federations and amongst the National Olympic Committees. The Olympic movement has not ceased to spread across the globe and we hope that soon not only will our ranks be united but also filled.

Ever since the modern Games were started in 1896, the movement has had its critics, suffered the blows of two world wars, but at the same time been a primary contributor to the development of sport, social and cultural activities throughout the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Gathered here today are representatives of all concerned with the Olympic movement, the International Olympic Committee, the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees, the Organising Committees, the competitors, the media and the spectators, and we will all, I am sure, accept our responsibilities.

This speech is prior to the opening of the 77th Session, where we have much work to do, and also immediately before the opening of the XIth Winter Games and on the eve of the Games of the XXIst Olympiad. I hope that in this pleasant atmosphere we can deal satisfactorily with the many points on the agenda, and then enjoy ourselves at the Winter Games.

Thanks-Good wishes competitors, officials and organisers.

L. K.



Lord Killanin, Dr. Fred Sinowatz and Dr. Kurt Heller.