



**Welcome to Abidjan
“AKWABA”**

*H. E. Ambassador
Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye
and his wife.*

The International Olympic Committee's selection of Abidjan, in the Ivory Coast,—a land of dialogue, fraternity and peace—as the seat of the first meeting in Africa of its Executive Board with the National Olympic Committees and the 8th General Assembly of NOCs was not the result of chance or a casual last-minute arrangement.

The Ivory Coast Olympic Committee and its President have a dual reason for joy and pride in the welcome I am extending to you. For it is in two capacities that I am addressing you, the members of the IOC Executive Board, Presidents and members of the NOCs, as I am President of the Ivory Coast Olympic Committee and also member of the International Olympic Committee in the Ivory Coast, the Ivory Coast which fully subscribes to the ideals of Olympism set forth by Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

Thus, while the Ivory Coast Olympic Committee is alive to the honour it has of welcoming you for the first to Africa, it is nevertheless even more conscious of the duties which this task involves.

Duties of gratitude to all those who have made this great meeting possible. Then duties of hospitality, and I am sure that our country will prove itself welcoming to all those who are coming for the first time, that it will renew its attractions for those who know it already and that it will leave deep regret in the hearts of those who have not been able to come.

This wonderful country, of which I am honoured to be a son, puts all its ancient traditions into action to make your stay pleasant and the confrontation of our common ideal, Olympism, profitable. In a word it would like to leave its physical and spiritual stamp on you, for, as the President of our Republic, H. E. Félix Houphouët-Boigny, said,

“The Ivory Coast has endeavoured, and no doubt successfully, to show the outside world the face of a fraternal country, conscious both of its responsibilities and its rights, true to its commitments, principles and friendships, open to dialogue, ready too for any new solution which it considers sound, realistic and earnest.”

And this of course leads me to mention the last and most important of the duties which, in welcoming you, the Ivory Coast Olympic Committee has assumed. This is the spiritual duty, a message of friendship, fraternity and tolerance so that the Olympic ideal may triumph yet again.

Citius, altius, fortius, in Abidjan on 27th March 1977.



Louis GUIRANDOU-N'DIAYE
President of the Ivory Coast Olympic Committee,
IOC member in the Ivory Coast



*HE Félix Houphouët-Boigny,
President of the Republic
of the Ivory Coast.*

*Lord Killanin,
President
of the International Olympic Committee.*



Mr. Giulio Onesti, IOC member in Italy and Coordinator of Olympic Solidarity, who will chair the General Assembly of National Olympic Committees, talking to Jonkheer Herman A. van Karnebeek, IOC member in the Netherlands and President of the IOC Commission for Olympic Solidarity.

Our hosts at Abidjan



*HE Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye,
IOC member and President
of the Ivory Coast
Olympic Committee (COI)*



*Mr. Etienne Ahin,
Minister of Youth,
Public Education
and Sport*



*Mr. Konan Ndri,
President of the
Organising Committee
for these meetings (OC)*



*Mr. Honorat Wodie,
Secretary General
of the COI*



*Mr. Etienne Koizan,
Secretary General
of the OC*



*Mr. Koffi Guipro,
Vice-President of the COI
and responsible
for transport at the OC*



*Dr. Gotta,
Vice-President
of the COI*



*Mr. Moïse Bodo,
Treasurer
of the COI*



*Mr. Soro Ouattara Maur
member of the COI*