



Impressions of a voyage...

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

Through the New Zealand Olympic Association I had been invited with my wife to address three Junior Chamber of Commerce luncheons aimed at fund-raising in order to improve sports facilities. This was subsequently changed to the Sportsman of the Year dinner. Also I had received from the President of the South East Asia Games an invitation to be present at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. As a result of these invitations I decided to make a round the world tour in order to see as much as I could of the various activities in some areas which I had not previously visited as President.

As an appendix I attach a more detailed programme of the journey.

In all the cities I visited not only were press conferences held, with both local, national and international coverage, but also television and radio interviews.

As will be seen from the diary, in each of the centres I stopped I was received

with all the appropriate protocol and it was interesting to note in what high esteem the Olympic movement is held throughout. I was able to have discussions not only with many members of National Olympic Committees, but also to meet with Heads of State, sports ministers, foreign ministers, or their representatives, and civic leaders who are interested in the development of sport. I have prepared very full reports which are being filed at Chateau de Vidy (naturally some must be of a confidential nature), but I hope in due course that the various National Olympic Committees or members of the IOC in the areas which I visited will be submitting reports on the visit, from their point of view.

I would like to thank the many Presidents of NOCs and Secretaries General whom I met, also the members of the IOC, as well as all members of the national federations affiliated to the International Federations and those who escorted us through the various countries and cities. Also I would like to thank the many ladies who entertained my wife.

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Lord Killanin conversing with the Indian Head of State, President Sanjiva Reddy.

Los Angeles



*Mr. Tom
Bradley,
Mayor of Los Angeles*

We left Europe on 3rd November on the direct flight to Los Angeles. It had been our intention to stop over as Los Angeles is the shortest way to New Zealand, but in view of the fact that an invitation had come in from Los Angeles (the only one) for 1984, I decided I should use the opportunity to see some of the facilities and have discussions with those who might be responsible should Los Angeles be allocated the Games. I was anxious to point out that, even if there was only one city, it is essential that all conditions are complied with, and if there are any problems, these must be discussed with the IOC prior to the awarding and signing of any agreements.

It would be wrong to pre-empt the position until the final bid is made and all details known, but there is little doubt that this city, which organised the Games in 1932, can do so again. There are the normal problems of certain necessary new

constructions and adaptations, but I believe that these could be kept to a minimum from a capital expenditure point of view. There is no doubt at all that the world-wide coverage of the capital costs of the Games in Montreal (as opposed to the net cash gain) has had an unfortunate impact. I am of the belief that this is one of the reasons why there have not been more applications for the 1984 Games, although I was delighted when I reached Sydney, Australia, to find that it is a serious candidate for 1988 and if it does not apply, the city of Melbourne will do so.

The other problem arises that with the Games being awarded six years (for 1988, seven years) ahead, government guarantees, in view of the rapidly changing political world, become increasingly difficult. These guarantees are essential if the spirit under which the Games take place is to continue, at the same time it must be appreciated that foreseeing political situations seven years ahead is not easy.

In Los Angeles I was able to visit many potential sites and was particularly interested in the possibilities of utilising for the village the residential buildings of the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California. This admittedly might mean splitting it in two, but would enable a saving in construction unless the civic authorities or private enterprise wish to make some new developments. This is a matter which will be reported at Athens. Also I was able to address the City Council in session and, I hope, forestall some of the criticism regarding the dangers and expenses of hosting the Games. Afterwards I was able to have a private interview with the leader of those people who are not against the Olympic Games as such, but are worried, because of the reports from Montreal, that the city of Los Angeles will be landed with very heavy expenditure which will not be of long-term value to the city.

Naturally each International Federation will carefully study the facilities required for its particular sport, although once again it is essential to stress that neither the IFs, the IOC nor the NOCs must be over-demanding in their requirements, whether they be technical, social or physical. If the demands are increased, they will strangle the future Olympic Games and ensure that there are no candidate cities in the long term.

New Zealand



It will be recalled that during the Games in Montreal, New Zealand featured very much because of its rugby football tour of South Africa. I was not able to discuss this with Mr. Muldoon, the Prime Minister, because he was on an official visit to the United States at the time, but I did meet Mr. B. E. Talboys, the acting Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. That the tour was still such a talking point was largely due to the fact that New Zealand is in the British Commonwealth, and the African Commonwealth countries were discussing whether or not to take part in the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada. I understand, although the Commonwealth Games are not the concern of the International Olympic Committee, that a satisfactory conclusion has been reached, and I most sincerely hope that we never have a repetition of the situation which arose in this respect in Montreal.

Another issue which was being much discussed in New Zealand at the time was the professional cricket circuit which is being organised by Mr. Kerry Packer. The fact that he is an Australian newspaper and independent television station proprietor makes some people suspicious that the show business side of sport might overtake the sporting side. This case is not directly the business of the IOC, but it does highlight the problems which face sports which have a world-wide interest, especially from a professional and television viewpoint.

I would particularly like to thank, in regard to our visit to New Zealand, Mr. Harold Austad, President of the New Zealand Olympic Association, whom I was glad to be able to present with the Olympic Order (silver), and our colleague, Mr. Lance Cross, who met us at Auckland and remained with us throughout the visit, and Mr. T. A. Foote, reception officer at the Department of Internal Affairs, who accompanied us throughout our trip and made everything extremely easy.

Australia



On 14th November we arrived at Melbourne, where we were met by Mr. Sydney Grange, President of the Australian Olympic Federation, and Mr. Julius Patching, Secretary General, together with the two IOC members, Mr. David McKenzie, who is based in Sydney, and Mr. Kevan Gosper, who is resident in Melbourne, besides the honorary member, Mr. Lewis Luxton. Once again the diary enumerates the activities. It was during the reception given by the Sports Minister for the State of Victoria in Melbourne that the first public reference was made to the possibilities of Sydney being a candidate for the 1988 Games. It was then that the Minister said that if Sydney was not a candidate Melbourne would certainly consider applying. At the time of my visit, the Australian Federal Government had been dissolved for an election which has since taken place and the ruling party returned with an increased majority. There is no doubt from my discussions at federal and

Sydney Grange and Lord Killanin.



state level that there is an intense interest in Australia in assisting the development of sport from all points of view, but without political dictation, and the autonomy and authority of the National Olympic Committee and the national federations are recognised.

As in New Zealand, the Australian Olympic Federation is moving in the direction of encouraging and taking part in the development of sports in schools and at all levels and wishes to assist its less experienced neighbours in Oceania. In Melbourne I was able to meet the executive members of the Australian Olympic Federation, who had come from all the states ; whilst in Sydney I met the New South Wales Olympic Association members.

Malaysia



On 21st November we left Australia for Malaysia where we remained until after the closing ceremony of the South East Asia Games which took place on 26th November under the presidency of Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Abu Samah, President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia. With the President of the games, we were able to see many of the sports. These games do not receive the patronage of the International Olympic Committee but are inspired by the regional games to which we give patronage and enable countries to meet in fair competition in the Olympic spirit.

The following countries took part :

Brunei, Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Unfortunately however, Vietnam, Cambodia (Kambuchen) and Laos did not take part and I sincerely hope that we will see Olympic Committees revived in these countries ; their flags were actually flying at the stadium with those of the participants.

The programme consisted of nineteen sports, of which weightlifting, basketball, volleyball, hockey, cycling, shooting, football, judo; archery, athletics, swimming and boxing are on the Olympic programme. To these were added table tennis, lawn tennis, rugby, badminton, bowling (ten-pin) and one of the most agile games which is particular to this part of the world, sepak takraw. It is played on the equivalent of a badminton court, but any part of the body other than the hands may be used and it is highly acrobatic and exciting.

There were some 2,500 competitors, housed in the University of Kuala Lumpur which I visited. Prince Takeda, member of the IOC, was also a guest of honour at these games and IOC member Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya (Thailand) and General Suprayogi (Indonesia) were present. It gave me an opportunity to meet officers of the various National Olympic Committees concerned, as well as competitors, officials, coaches and journalists from the participating countries. I was invited to attend a meeting of the South East Asia Games Federation, which I addressed, and heard discussions regarding



Lord Killanin and Datuk Sri Hamzah bin Haji Abu Samah during the Council meeting of the South East Asia Games Federation.

the plans for the games of 1979, which are to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia. I hope that a report on these games, which were extremely successful, can be included in a later issue of the Olympic Review. During this time, I was informed that there has been a split in the badminton federation, due to the China-Taiwan question. This was the first information that I had received on this and it is a situation which will require careful watching. Although badminton is not on the Olympic programme, there has been an application for inclusion.

India



On arrival at New Delhi we were met by Air Chief Marshal O. P. Mehra, President of the



Thailand



Lord Killanin with the officials of the Indian Olympic Association : on his left Air Chief Marshal O. P. Mehra, President, and on his right Air Vice-Marshal C. L. Mehta, Secretary General.

On Sunday, 27th November, we left Kuala Lumpur for New Delhi, via Bangkok, where colleague Dawee Chullasapya met us at the airport and took us on a brief sightseeing tour. Bangkok is to be the site of the Asian Games in December 1978.

Indian Olympic Association, and Air Vice-Marshal C. L. Mehta, Secretary General, and all the officers together with representatives of the federations and the two IOC members in India, Raja Bhalindra Singh and Mr. Ashwini Kumar.

One of the highlights of this trip was a visit to the National Institute of Sport at Patiala, which is run by the government and which

has collaborated with the Olympic Solidarity programme and the International Amateur Athletic Federation in organising courses. It has a high quality and can contribute immensely to the development of sport in Asia, especially athletics. The institute is in the Maharajah of Patiala's former palace.

The present Maharajah is a nephew of our member Raja Bhalindra Singh.

During our trip we were able to do a certain amount of sightseeing and a memorable

event was a flying visit to Agra to see the Taj Mahal and the great fort.

There have been problems in India with some of the national federations caused by political divergencies and historical factors, but I believe these can be solved and the Indian Olympic Association under its very capable President, together with our members, has contributed much towards finding solutions to these problems so that the international competition of sportsmen is not affected.

Pakistan



On the evening of 1st December, after a very full and well-attended press conference held in the morning, we left New Delhi for Lahore, where we arrived two hours later to be met by IOC member Wajid Ali (whose house guest I was throughout the stay), the Secretary of the Pakistan Olympic Committee, Mr. Zafar Ali, and other officers. In Lahore I was able to meet the majority of members of the Pakistan Olympic Association, and others I met subsequently in Islamabad the capital, and Karachi. As is well known, Pakistan has had some political

problems and currently the country is under martial law. Again, a non-Olympic highlight of this visit was to go for the day from Peshawar to the North West Frontier, with its magnificent scenery. This road through which the Moguls entered India, although not included amongst the wonders of the world, is perhaps one of the most strategic and important routes. We met the political officer at the North West Frontier on the Afghanistan border, before returning to Islamabad. In Islamabad a vast sporting complex, including a stadium, is being built.

It will be recalled that originally the Asian Games were to be held in Islamabad and this stadium is being built with the help of the People's Republic of China. It will probably be completed so that the Asian Games after Bangkok can be held there. I must confess that I felt that possibly there was a greater interest in this large project and perhaps not as much as one would have hoped in the development at lower levels. We left Karachi on 5th December.



Syed Wajid Ali, Lord Killanin, Lady Killanin, Sh. Zafar Ali and Lt.-Gen. Bakhtiar Rana.



The President of Pakistan, H.E. Chaudry Fazal Elahi, Lord Killanin, Lady Killanin, Mrs. Shahid Ali and Mrs. Razia Azam Ali Beg.

Summary

I think the principal points that arose from the visit were :

1. *General*

It was possible to meet, in their own countries or at least nearby, the representatives of eleven National Olympic Committees, together with a large number of active and former sportsmen and administrators.

It confirms that the problems facing National Olympic Committees and national federations in each country vary considerably.

2. *Olympic Solidarity*

There is no doubt that the Olympic Solidarity is of interest to all countries, both those developed and developing, and must be furthered to its utmost. The Solidarity Commission will be meeting next in April when long-term programmes will be discussed. Again the question of standards in different countries varies very much, as indeed do the questions of costs and travelling. It is noticeable for instance that one of the biggest problems facing the Oceanic and

Australasian countries is the distance even from Asia itself and indeed from New Zealand to Australia, which makes international competition difficult, compared to the facilities which are available in a close knit area such as Europe.

3. *Eligibility*

There is continuing interest in Rule 26, and concern regarding competition between what might be termed "semi-State" or "commercially" sponsored athletes, and those who do not have government or private enterprise support for international competition. This is a question which will have to be reviewed after the experience of the Games in Moscow.

4. *Press and public relations*

I was able to tape many of my speeches and press conferences and these again no doubt will be reported in due course by the various sources. The interest in the Olympic movement was to my mind reconfirmed by the press, radio and television coverage of the tour.

5. Politics

In practically every country I encountered questions of politics and sport. These varied from very direct questions regarding what the IOC was going to do regarding China, (there is no doubt at all of the strong views held by the majority of Asiatic countries on this problem), to the questions of government assistance to sport. Nearly all the National Olympic Committees and national federations, whilst welcoming the assistance, wished to be free from any government dictates in regard to policy or the autonomy of the National Olympic Committees or the national federations. Naturally this does vary somewhat with the type of government or constitution within each country and it is not possible for the International Olympic Committee or International Federations to go against or change national constitutions.

6. Costs

Everybody is conscious of the cost of the Games and there were criticisms that our demands and those of the International Federations are such that it is not possible for the less wealthy countries to stage the Games. This I believe to be correct. On the other hand, I took every opportunity that I could to stress the cash profit made by Munich and Montreal besides the long-term advantages to the sportsmen and to the citizens of those countries which have held the Games. This is an area in which I believe it is essential for the IOC, the IFs and the NOCs to concentrate very carefully.

Finally, I would like to thank again all those who made the visit by Lady Killanin and myself so agreeable and although I have mentioned one or two names, it would be impossible to list the hundreds of new friends we made. I was able in 1977 to visit part of Africa, Asia and Australasia and it is my intention in 1978 not only to visit Pan-America, Asia and Europe again, but also to visit personally, or send representatives to, some of the National Olympic Committees, especially the smaller ones, on the continent of Africa, both anglophone and francophone.

It is extremely important for the IOC to keep in close contact with the National Olympic Committees of these countries and far more has to be done to keep them fully informed of our aims and ideals, which at times get eclipsed by extraneous events that are not within the control of the IOC, the IFs or the NOCs.

Diary of the journey

2nd November

Departed Dublin for London.

3rd November

Departed London, arrived Los Angeles. Met by Mr. Anton Calleja, Deputy to Mayor Tom Bradley, and Col. John McFaden.

4th November

Visited Mayor Tom Bradley in his office. Addressed Los Angeles City Council (President, John Ferraro). Press conference followed by reception and luncheon given by the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games (President, John Argue).

5th November

Visited University of Southern California (President, Professor John Hubbard). Visited the Coliseum and former Olympic sites and toured the city of Los Angeles by helicopter. Visited the University of California, Los Angeles (Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Norman - Miller). Attended University of Southern California/Stanford football games.

6th November

After visiting the marina, departed Los Angeles for Auckland, New Zealand.

7th November

Day lost due to dateline.

8th November

Arrived Auckland. Met by Mr. Harold Austad, President, New Zealand Olympic Association, and Mr. Lance Cross, IOC member.

Attended sportsmen's luncheon presided by Mr. Ernie Brookman.

Departed Auckland for Wellington, press conference.

The first part of this journey was presented in our last issue (p. 676) with the help of material kindly forwarded by the National Olympic Committees.

9th November

Met The Rt. Hon. Brian Talboys, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, in his office. Lunch given by Mr. H.I. Austad.

Visited His Worship the Mayor of Wellington, Mr. Michael Fowler.

Attended government reception given by the acting Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. B.E. Talboys, attended by all leading sports organisers and parliamentarians.

10th November

Visited and held discussions with The Hon. D.A. Highet, Minister of Internal Affairs, Recreation and Sport. Guest of honour at luncheon given by The Hon. D.A. Highet at Parliament House. Attended and addressed, as guest speaker, the New Zealand Sportsman of the Year dinner, organised by the Murray Halberg Foundation.

11th November

Free day. Visit to Parae Stud, Masterton (Mr. Richard Williams) and toured Masterton, Palmerston North and Wellington.

12th November

Guest of honour at reception hosted by Mr. H.I. Austad, CBE, for the New Zealand Olympic Association. Presentation of the Olympic Order (silver) to Mr. H.I. Austad.

13th November

Departed Wellington for Christchurch by government aircraft. Visit to Mount Cook had to be cancelled owing to bad visibility. Toured Christchurch area.

14th November

Christchurch. Visited His Worship the Mayor of Christchurch, Mr Hamish Hay, who accompanied me to the new Town Hall which will include a cultural centre. This is a modern and extremely well designed centre for theatre, concerts, exhibitions etc. : subsequently visited Queen Elizabeth II stadium and sports centre which were constructed for the British Commonwealth Games.

Note : It was interesting to find this being very much used early in the day by mothers and their children, although it is not in the city centre.

Departed Christchurch, arrived Melbourne. Met by Mr. Sydney Grange, President of the Australian Olympic Federation, Mr. Julius Patching, Secretary General, Mr. David McKenzie and Mr. Kevan Gosper, IOC members, and Mr. Lewis Luxton, honorary member.

15th November

Press conference, including radio and television. Lunch with the Melbourne Cricket Club, host Sir

Albert Chadwick, President of the MCC, on the site of the 1956 Olympic Games.

16th November

Free day. Visited Ballarat races and the Stockwell Stud.

17th November

Lunch at Shell House with members of the IOC. Victoria State function hosted by The Hon. Brian Dixon, MP, Minister for Social Welfare, Minister for Youth, Sports and Recreation. Function attended by officials representing Olympic sports in the State of Victoria and a number of Olympic athletes and administrators. Visited Sydney Opera House.

18th November

Visited His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Winneke. Attended final session of the Australian Olympic Federation Executive meeting.

Visited at hotel by The Hon. Kevin Newman, Federal Minister for the Environment, Housing and Community Development, responsible for sport, who was accompanied by Mr. Graham Demster, senior official in the federal government dealing with sport. Nation-wide television broadcast. Attended Olympic fraternity dinner hosted by Sydney B. Grange, MBE, President of the Australian Olympic Federation. Presented Mr. Grange with his Australian Olympic life membership plaque.

19th November

Departed Melbourne for Sydney. Met at Sydney by Mr. William Young, President of the New South Wales Olympic Council, and officers, and Mr. Kenneth Booth, MP, Minister for Sport in New South Wales. Dinner hosted by Mr. William Young. Presented Mr. Young with his Australian Olympic life membership plaque.

20th November

Free day. Cruised in Sydney harbour and lunched on yacht belonging to Mr. Keith Storey : members of the Australian NOC and IOC present.

21st November

Press conference including television and radio, nation-wide. Attended reception given by The Rt. Hon. Alderman Leo Port, MBE, Lord Mayor of Sydney, who expressed his eagerness to host the 1988 Olympic Games.

22nd November

Lunch with His Excellency the Governor, Sir Roden Cutler, VC. The lunch included many Australian gold medalists, including the Commissioner of the New South Wales Police, Mr. Mervyn Wood (rowing,

1949) and the Minister of Sports, Mr. Booth. Departed Sydney for Kuala Lumpur.

23rd November

Free day until dinner hosted by Datuk Hamzah bin Abu Samah, President of the South East Asia Games and President of the Malaysian Olympic Committee.

24th November

Attended meeting of the South East Asia Games Council, followed by lunch with South East Asia Games Federatron delegates, which included athletes.

24th-25th November

Attended the various sports taking place including athletics, swimming, sepak takraw, volleyball, basketball.

25th November

In the evening attended wedding celebrations of the daughter of the Prime Minister, Datuk Hussein Onn.

26th November

Visited village in the University of Malaysia (Vice-Chancellor, Professor Unku Aziz). Attended closing ceremony of South East Asia Games in royal box with Agong (Head of State) and Prime Minister.

27th November

Departed Kuala Lumpur for New Delhi via Bangkok. Visited Bangkok accompanied by Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya.

28th November

Visited President of India, His Excellency Sanjiva Reddy, at presidential palace, followed by visit to sports complexes and meeting with Indian Olympic Association Executive Council. Dinner hosted by Professor P. C. Chander, Minister of Education and Social Welfare, attended by the Presidents and Secretaries of the national federations and associations, the state, Olympic associations, the Indian Olympic Association Executive members and IOC

29th November

Sightseeing, including further visits to sports facilities in New Delhi. Departed for Patiala by air in official plane of Director General, Border Security Force. Stayed at Motibagh Palace with HRH the Maharajah of Patiala. Visited the National Institute of Sports at Patiala (Director, Mr. R. L. Anand) and addressed the staff and students. Dinner hosted by Raja Bhalindra Singh.

30th November

Free day. Visited Agra and Taj Mahal by air. Returned Delhi. Dinner hosted by Ashwini Kumar, member of the IOC.

1st December

Press conference at Delhi Gymkhana Club, including radio and television. Lunch hosted by Air Chief Marshal Mehra, President of the Indian Olympic Association. Departed Delhi for Lahore. Dined with National Olympic Committee of Pakistan.

2nd December

Toured Lahore and attended polo match on race-course. Dinner and reception hosted by Syed Wajid Ali and attended by sporting and government officials.

3rd December

Departed Lahore for Peshawar, visited Khyber Pass.

4th December

Drove from Peshawar to Rawalpindi (Islamabad), lunching at Taxillo. Discussions with Mr. Zakir Hussain Syed, Director General, Pakistan Sports Board. Visited new stadium at Islamabad, prior to departure for and arrival at Karachi.

5th December

Visited Karachi. Press conference, Pakistan television. Dinner and reception hosted by Syed Wajid Ali for sportsmen and prominent persons in Karachi.

6th December

Departed Karachi. Arrived Dublin via London.

Please note that at all receptions, except those given privately by the governors or Heads of State, I made speeches, all of which were recorded and have been transcribed for future reference. At many of the functions presentations were made which I accepted in memory of the visit, and for which I am most grateful. Basically all press conferences were arranged simultaneously for all forms of media and as a matter of principle I did not give any private press interviews, except in Los Angeles at the commencement of the tour, as it would otherwise have been impossible from a time viewpoint.

