



Welcome at Tunis-Carthage international airport (from left to right) : Mr. Mohamed Mzali, Lord Killanin and Lady Killanin.



The opening ceremony of the IOC Executive Board (from left to right) : Lord Killanin, Mr. Fouad Mebazza and Mr. Mohamed Mzali.



# The Tunisian Olympic meeting

Replying to the invitation from Mr. Mohamed Mzali, Vice-President of the IOC, President of the Tunisian Olympic Committee and Minister of National Education, Lord Killanin, President of the IOC, his colleagues of the Executive Board and the members of the Tripartite Commission and the Commission for the International Olympic Academy kept their appointment in Tunis from 23rd to 28th January 1978.

Fruitful discussions, on which we report below, were made possible by the traditional hospitality of this Maghreb nation with the efficiency and willingness of the organisers. All the participants readily acknowledged the perfect working and accommodation conditions offered by the organisers, for which we wish to thank Mr. Mzali and his friends and colleagues, and in particular Mr. Fouad Mebazza, Minister of Youth and Sport, who honoured the opening of the Executive Board meeting with his presence and gave our hosts constant support, Mr. Slaheddine Baly, Secretary General of the Tunisian Olympic Committee and Minister of Justice, Colonel Mustapha Darghouth, Messrs. Khemaïs Boughzela and Mohamed Ben Hassine, Presidents of national sports federations, and all their assistants.

After the meetings Mr. Mzali invited his guests to make a two-day tour of the east of the country. Under a warm winter sun the members of the IOC Executive Board and those accompanying them visited the towns of Sidi Bou Said, Nabeul, Hammamet, Sousse, Monastir and Kairouan, as well as the exceptional amphitheatre at El Djem. The historical wealth and tourist attractions



As the audience granted by the head of the Tunisian Government had to be cancelled due to the internal incidents, it was Mr. Mohamed Mzali, in his capacity as Minister of National Education, who pinned on Lord Killanin, President of the IOC, the Insignia of Grand Officer in the Order of the Republic. The Sports Merit was also awarded to all the members of the Executive Board as well as the Director and Technical Director of the IOC

provoked unanimous admiration. They met the regional dignitaries at the various governorships where they were received in the grand tradition of Arab hospitality. The evolution of sport at local level, the problems of the development of education made even more difficult by the population explosion, the promises for the future embodied in the youth of this population were all explained, thus demonstrating the government's attachment to sport as a means of education.

Everybody appreciated the importance given to sport as a factor of education, of which the students of the National Sports Institute who acted as guides and hostesses during the meetings were the most obvious example.

In twenty years Tunisia, a land of hospitality and a rich cultural centre at the crossroads of Mediterranean civilisations, has become an important element of international sports life for a number of reasons, among which are :

- the national audience Olympism enjoys on account of the coherent and constant activity of the NOC which was founded in 1957, and
- its international reputation with the IFs and NOCs following the organisation of the Mediterranean Games at Tunis in 1967 and several international competitions.

The success of the Olympic meetings at Tunis will increase the sports renown of this country. Henceforth the Olympic foothold constituted by Tunisia will enable Olympic activities and their impact to be strengthened for the greater benefit of the African continent.

## The President of the IOC meets the press

Representatives of the Tunisian national press as well as some foreign journalists attended the President of the IOC's press conference which was covered by the Tunisian television and held in the Hotel Africa Meridien on 26th January at the end of the meetings of the Tripartite Commission, Commission for the International Olympic Academy and the Executive Board.

The President opened his conference by thanking Mr. Mohamed Mzali, the Secretary General of the Tunisian NOC and all the members of the Organising Committee for their hospitality and hard work which had made the meetings a great success. He also expressed his thanks to Mr. Fouad Mebazza, Minister for Youth and Sport, for having

officially opened the Executive Board meeting.

In his introduction Lord Killanin specified the particular task of the Executive Board which had been to make recommendations to the next IOC Session in Athens.

## Olympic Games and Winter Games

### Lake Placid

The President stated that the Executive Board had discussed the next Winter Games and mentioned that there were still some problems which mainly affected the international press agencies. He would be in Lake Placid the next month during the IOC Press Commission meeting when Commission members would study these problems after a visit to all the sites.

### Visit to Moscow

Expressing his satisfaction with the good progress being made in Moscow in preparation for the Games of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad, Lord Killanin recalled his recent visit to Moscow earlier in the month where he had been invited to meet Mr. Leonid Brezhnev who had unfortunately been too ill to receive him. However he had conferred with Mr. Alexei Kosygin, President of the USSR Council of Ministers, who had guaranteed that all the IOC's requests would be met.

Lord Killanin informed the journalists that the IOC had approved the new pictograms and commercial emblems that would be in use during the Games. As for the spectator tickets, the OCOG would shortly send them to agents nominated by each NOC.

### President's journey to Los Angeles, Australasia and Asia

The President briefly mentioned his trip at the end of 1977 to different countries, and in particular those in Australasia and Asia (see "*Olympic Review*" No. 123).

A few months prior to this he had made a visit to Peking and Lord Killanin said that at the Athens Session he would be presenting a report on the contacts he had made on that occasion. He stressed that the All China Sports Federation reaffirmed that in its

opinion there were not two Chinas, nor was there one China and one Taiwan. In reply to a journalist, the President stated that he considered the question would take some time to be solved but that a solution had to be found before the 1979 IOC Session.

## South Africa

The President said that the journalists had no doubt seen in the newspapers that Mr. Opperman, President of the former South African NOC, had written a letter requesting new recognition of his committee. The IOC had received certain information on South Africa and it was the unanimous feeling of the Executive Board that it was premature to consider such recognition, especially as the question had also been discussed during the Prague Session.

## Commissions' reports

Lord Killanin announced that the Executive Board had examined reports from various IOC Commissions : Juridical Commission, Commission for the Olympic Programme, Commission for Olympic Solidarity, Tripartite Commission and Commission for the International Olympic Academy.

The full *Programme Commission* would be meeting next March in Lausanne. The programme for the 1984 Games would be discussed in 1980 when the events for each sport were being considered. Lord Killanin specified that he hoped to meet the Presidents and Secretaries General of the International Federations after the IOC Session at Athens.

The next meeting of the *Solidarity Commission* would be held on 12th and 13th April in Mexico where members would discuss the various activities of Olympic Solidarity and prepare a report for the Athens Session.

With regard to the *Tripartite Commission*, Lord Killanin spoke of the decisions of the Commission which had been given to the press at a conference a few days earlier and published in a press release (see page 88). These decisions would now be discussed and approved by the different organisations which are represented on the Commission.

The President then asked Mr. Mohamed Mzali, President of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy, to give a brief report to the journalists present. Mr.



*The IOC Tripartite Commission at its meeting in Tunis on 23rd January 1978 (from left to right) : Mr. Willi Daume (GER). representing the Organising Committee of the 11th Olympic Congress ; Mr. Günther Sabetzki (IF, PT of the IJHF) ; H.E. Juan Antonio Samaranch (ESP), Vice-President of the IOC; Mr. Thomas Keller (IF, PT of the FISA); Mr. Charles S. Palmer (IF, PT of the IJF); Lord Killanin, President of the IOC ; Mr. Philip O. Krumm (NOC, former PT of the United States NOC) ; Mr. Mohamed Mzali (TUN), Vice-President of the IOC ; Mr. Raoul Mollet (NOC, PT of the Belgian NOC) ; Mrs. Monique Berlioux, Director of the IOC, and Mr. Henry R. Banks, Technical Director of the IOC.*

Mzali stated that the Executive Board had approved the 1978 summer programme as well as a medium range programme concerning the propagation of the values and philosophy of Olympism.

In the summer of this year there would thus be four courses organised by the International Olympic Academy : from 1st to 8th July for NOC officials; 6th to 22nd July—17th IOA Session ; 23rd to 30th July—8th Session for Greek Educationists, and a session organised by the USOC for educationists from the United States of America from 30th July to 6th August. Mr. Mzali expressed his wish that this last initiative would be followed by many other NOCs.

Mr. Mzali also mentioned the decision to invite critics, writers and representatives of the five international agencies recognised by the IOC to these sessions so that they would be encouraged to write about their experiences there and would make the work of the International Olympic Academy known throughout the world.

#### **NOCs' emblems**

Continuing his conference, the IOC President stated that the NOCs were now sending in their national symbols and emblems to the IOC for its approval. This step would then allow them to commercialise these

emblems and earn funds necessary for their activities.

#### **Future Olympic Games**

The Executive Board had talked about the extension of the Olympic Games and had decided to propose that rather than changing Rule 54 the IOC in the future would attribute the Olympic Games to a city or area and would be more flexible on the distance required between the stadium and the other sites. Lord Killanin cited the 1980 Games in Moscow as an example since the yachting events would be in Tallinn whilst other events would be in Minsk and Lenin-grad.

These arrangements would facilitate matters for countries which might consider applying for the organisation of future Olympic Games and would ensure that all the events would not have to be held in one city.

#### **1984 Olympic Games**

Lord Killanin announced that the International Tennis Federation had asked that its sport be included on the programme for the 1984 Games. He explained that the question of additional sports or the removal of certain others would probably be discussed in 1980 for the 1988 Games as it would be at the Session following the 1981 Olympic Con-

gress that the 1988 Games would be awarded.

### Regional Games

The President specified that the Athens Session would also have to discuss the rules concerning the IOC's patronage of Regional

Games. These rules dated back to 1952 and were in need of updating.

In conclusion, the President invited members of the press to attend his next press conference, scheduled for 20th March in Lausanne, where the Manifesto prepared by the Tripartite Commission would be made public.

Tunis, 24th January 1978.

## The Tripartite Commission

Press release from the IOC Tripartite Commission which is composed of the International Olympic Committee, the International Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committees under the chairmanship of the President of the IOC, Lord Killanin.

The following two points are the main topics which have been discussed at this meeting in Tunis :

1. The ever-increasing encroachment by public authorities and other non-sporting organisations in the activities of national and international sport has been a growing cause of concern to the Tripartite Commission which believes that this encroachment is not always in the best interest of sport.

The Tripartite Commission further believes that the traditional independence of the world's sports bodies has been a major factor throughout this century in the success of today's sports movement and considers that it is now necessary to take steps to preserve this independence.

To this end, the Tripartite Commission has been studying means of establishing a common position for future relations with the non-sporting organisations concerned. Two of the means which the Tripartite Commission has been examining are :

- a) the production of a manifesto stating the position as they believe it should be, and
- b) the formation of a Supreme Council for World Sport composed of the organisations whose representatives comprise the Tripartite Commission and other bodies concerned.

Details will be released at a special press conference, presided over by Lord Killanin, President of the International Olympic Committee, which will follow the next meeting of the IOC Tripartite Commission to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 20th March 1978.

2. The 11th Olympic Congress, Baden-Baden 1981 will be held from 23rd to 28th September 1981.

The Congress will be preceded by meetings of the IOC Executive Board, the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees and the IOC Commissions and followed by the 84th Session of the IOC.

The theme of the Congress will be "International sports co-operation". Two days will be spent on this topic and one day will be spent on purely Olympic matters such as the future development of the Olympic Games.

The Congress programme will also include reports by the 1984 Games' organising cities and presentation of the 1988 candidate cities.

Preparations for the Congress are progressing satisfactorily. The Congress emblem was presented by Mr. Willi Daume, President of the Congress Organising Committee, in his report which was unanimously accepted.

The first official bulletin on the Congress will be published in five languages in the spring of this year.