

## The Central-American Sports Games



## The ORDECA Congress and Games

*by Virgili de Leon*  
*IOC member in Panama*

As the President of the IOC, Lord Killanin, had other commitments, he asked me to represent him at the celebration of the 2nd Central American Games in San Salvador. I therefore arrived in this neighbouring country on 23rd November 1977 in order to take part in the opening of the General Assembly of the Central American Sports Organisation (ORDECA), the body in charge of these Games.

At this ceremony Dr. Alejandro Giammattei Caceres, President of the ORDECA and the Guatemalan Olympic Committee, was flanked by the Vice-President, Mr. Carlos A. Vazquez (PAN), the Secretary, Mrs. Ingrid Keller (GUA), the President of the Organising Committee of the 2nd Central American Games, Colonel José Larios Guerra (SAL), and Messrs. Rafael Barquero and Federico Fortun A., Presidents of the Costa Rican and Honduras NOCs respectively.

The meeting was a great success. A new Management Committee responsible for the ORDECA's future over the next four years was elected, and the site of the 3rd Central American Games was also chosen. The city of Managua, capital of the Republic of Nica-

### *ORDECA*

*Management Committee (1977-1981) :*

*PT* : Colonel José Larios Guerra (SAL) ;  
*VPT* : Colonel Rodrigo Garcia Ramirez (PAN) ;  
*S* : Mr. Manuel de J. Rivas Rodriguez (SAL) ;  
*T* : Mrs. Ingrid Keller (GUA) ;  
*Ms* : Messrs. Rafael Barquero (CRC) and Federico Fortun A. (HON).



*Colonel José Larios Guerra, President of the El Salvador NOC, Mrs. Ingrid Keller, Dr. Alejandro Giammattei Caceres and Mr. Virgilio de Leon on the platform at the ORDECA Congress.*

ragua, was selected although competition was fierce from San José, capital of the Republic of Costa Rica.

The opening ceremony of the 2nd Central American Games took place in an atmosphere of social and sporting brotherhood. The Games were opened by the President of the Republic of El Salvador, General Carlos Humberto Romero, accompanied by the President of the Supreme Court of Justice of El Salvador, Dr. Rogelio Chavez, also President of the equestrian federation, and several ministers of State and leading public officials.

The attendance of Messrs. Mario Vazquez Raña, President of the Pan-American Sports Organisation, and José Beracasa A., President of the Central American and Caribbean Sports Organisation, should be mentioned as an item of great sports importance.

These Games were held in the best possible conditions thanks to the support of General Romero and the work of all the members, both of the Olympic Committee of El Salvador and the Organising Committee, under the leadership of Colonel Larios Guerra. Prompted by a feeling of gratitude the whole population of San Salvador welcomed the presence and support of the IOC with many sincere marks of appreciation. As Lord Killanin stated, the IOC's patronage has strengthened the deserved prestige of the Central American world.

*V. de L.*

