



Welcome to Montevideo

Provisional programme.

Tuesday 3rd April

- 09.00-13.00 Executive Board.
- 14.00-17.00 Executive Board.
- 17.00-18.30 Council of the Olympic Order.

Wednesday 4th April

- 09.00-13.00 Executive Board.
- 14.00-18.00 Executive Board
- Evening Official opening ceremony of the 81st IOC Session.

Thursday 5th April

- 09.00-13.00 Session.
 - 10.00 - Presentation of the "Olympic Order"
- 14.00-18.00 Session.
 - 16.00 - Report of the Lake Placid Organising Committee.

Friday 6th April

- 09.00-13.00 Session.
 - 09.00 - Report of the Moscow Organising Committee.
- 14.00-18.00 Session.

Saturday 7th April

- 09.00-13.00 Session.
- 14.00-18.00 Session.
 - IOC President's press conference.

Uruguay and all of the Americas stir with emotion upon learning that for the first time in the history of Olympism, the knights of world sport are to gather on South American soil to attend the 81st IOC Session. Issuing from a sacred valley, a ray of light spreads forth on a dynamic civilisation. In the same way that the river Alpheus washed and brought a bountiful harvest to the vast valley, the philosophy and the culture born within it were disseminated through time and space to all corners of the earth. This Greek imprint has been left on the entire world, exalting peaceful emulation among athletes



by José D. Vallarino Veracierto,
IOC member,
President of the Uruguayan Olympic
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of all races, from all lands with the sole aim being the victory of virtue, that quality embracing the highest of human attributes.

Montevideo is also washed by a river, as large as the sea-the "conquistadores" called it the "Río de la Plata". The Olympic Games had the Mount Cronos as their ever-present witness and our modest hill, which serves as a beacon for navigators, will also greet the emissaries of Olympism, whether they arrive by sea or air. This highest point in our capital, nestled at the foot of the bay, has retained of its Spanish past the language, the religion, the laws and the grandeur.

Montevideo's hill-the city emblem-and the gate to the citadel, which we have chosen

as a symbol for this 81st Session, are fully representative of the historic evolution undergone by what is today a metropolitan centre. Our people, with their thoroughly Spanish roots, have drunk of the spring of Greco-Latin civilisation, whose art and philosophy have been and continue to be the object of admiration in our land.

We extend our greetings, with a respect born almost of religion, to this assembly of men, the sacred guardians of classical Olympism and of the modern Olympism created by Pierre de Coubertin. We greet them as well with warmth and affection, as it is they who bring forth that penetrating ray of light which is Olympism, the symbol of the balance to be strived for between the spirit and physical strength, a balance which enables the young man of pure morals, in whom virtue and beauty are blended, to achieve victory.

Our Olympic traditions are deeply rooted and our athletes of an Olympic calibre, as demonstrated by the honours they have earned in a variety of disciplines. Above all, however, we are imbued with the Olympic spirit, inspired by the sacred flame and reassured' by your presence. Our feelings are best stated by the thinker Rodó, the guiding light of youth in the Americas : "May my words be softer and more persuasive now than they have ever been."

Let us take advantage of these blessed moments to demonstrate our profound and sincere gratitude to each of the members of the IOC, to thank them for their visit and to express the wish that the decisions taken at this 81st Session may be steeped in impartiality, mutual understanding and justice. Let us hope that what shall-be accomplished here will further the Olympic movement and honour the memory of 'its defender, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Let us hope as well that the outcome of our labours will encourage the establishment of peace, contribute in practical and spiritual terms to the improvement of human life and serve to benefit humanity.

