

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

Mr. Secretary of State,  
President Kane,  
Your Excellencies, Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

The opening of this Session of the International Olympic Committee is the opening of one of the most important Sessions ever held by this body, since its inception in 1894.

It is the custom to hold a Session of the IOC prior to the Winter Games and the Games of the Olympiad. What is most important is the success of the Lake Placid Winter Games, to which so many have contributed over the years. We all think of the late Ronald MacKenzie,

without whom these Games would not have been initiated, and we respect and appreciate the efforts made by this community to stage this international sporting event. We think of the athletes who vie for victory and are not disappointed in defeat.

The problems facing the Games of the XXIIInd Olympiad will be discussed at the full Session of the IOC on Monday. However, I must remind you that the Session opened here today closes with the extinction of the Olympic flame at the end of the XIIIth Winter Games.

The Executive Board of the IOC has already heard the views expressed by the President of the Assembly of National Olympic Committees, besides



*The President of the IOC accompanied by Lady Killanin, together with Mr. Cyrus Vance (right) and Mr. Robert Kane (left)*

the views of the governments of the United States and Australia, which have been conveyed through the respective National Olympic Committees.

Representatives of the USOC will appear again before the full Session on Monday morning next.

In view of the worldwild publicity surrounding the 1980 Games I feel it is my duty to recall some important points :

The decision was taken by the 75th Session of the IOC, meeting in Vienna in 1974, to allocate the Games of the XXIIInd Olympiad to the city of Moscow, and the XIIIth Winter Games to Lake Placid.

In both cases, agreements were signed, in accordance with our Rules, on 23rd October 1974. Judging by world reactions at the time, the decisions were welcomed as a symbol of mutual understanding.

Sadly, the current political situation is different today, but the IOC entered into agreements in 1974, which must be honoured by us all.

Solutions to the political problems of the world are not the responsibility of sporting bodies such as the International Olympic Committee, but of the appropriate governmental organisations.

Unfortunately, since the conception of the modern Olympic Movement, governments have attempted to make use of it for political purposes. I have never denied or ignored the intrusion of politics into the Olympic Movement, and I believe it to be in all our interests that these intrusions must be resisted.

We have had to face many problems in recent years, for example, political problems in Germany and China, and racial discrimination in South Africa and Rhodesia.

We have always sought to resolve these problems from a sporting point of view, in an effort to bring the peoples of the world together, without discrimination as to race, religion or politics.

As President of the International Olympic Committee, I have, during my term of office (which terminates this year), continually striven to spread the Olympic ideals beyond the actual Games, to assist in the promotion of sport, not only for the high performance athletes, but for those in developing and less privileged countries.

One cannot ignore the increasing violence and intolerance in the world. As I have repeatedly said, we have the greatest dislike of sport being made the target, when political, diplomatic and economic measures should be used by those with conflicting ideologies to resolve the differences.

We can only pray that the leaders of opposing factions can come together to resolve these differences, in order to avoid another holocaust.

I have continued to attack the chauvinism of certain aspects of the Olympic Games and sport in general. We have not been helped by those who, for instance, produce tables of results on a national basis, contrary to our Rules. They forget that rule 9 of our Fundamental Principles states :

*"The Games are a contest between individuals and not between countries"*

Nonetheless, demonstrations of nationalism increase, whether at Olympic ceremonies or on the sports field.

The IOC is not infallible and may also have contributed to this, despite its best endeavours.

Incidentally, there is sometimes confusion about the Olympic ceremonies. The victory ceremonies and medals are the property of the IOC as are the Games, and not that of the host city.

We live in a world where there are totalitarian regimes of the Left and the Right. Are there any countries which

can claim to fully respect human rights, and not to practise discrimination of some kind ?

It is not for me to preempt the decisions of the IOC but I would implore all those with different opinions and feelings : do not use the Olympic Games to divide the world, but to unite it-do not use athletes for the solution of political problems !

The International Olympic Committee has called the 11th Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden next year, which will be attended by representatives of the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees, besides the athletes themselves and governmental and non-governmental sporting bodies. We have endeavoured not only to co-ordinate the efforts of the IOC, IFs and NOCs but also to encourage cooperation with, and the assistance of, governments in the development of sport, but not the dictation of sports politics.

At this Congress the long term Olympic policy will be debated. This will include the eligibility of athletes, commercialisation, politicisation, and the size, siting and administration of the Olympic Games.

Let me repeat that this Session takes place before the XIIIth Winter Games, which open here in Lake Placid on Wednesday. We sincerely hope these Games will not be used for the furtherance of political aims, or demonstrations of prejudices. We call upon all competitors and participants, besides of course the spectators and the media, to respect each other within the principles of the Olympic Movement.

I now call on Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to formally open the 82nd Session of the International Olympic Committee.

L. K.

