

## President Samaranch – back in Moscow !

In the latest of his series of world wide visits to expand contacts and promote the ideals of Olympism, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, journeyed back to Moscow, the city he knew so well for four years as ambassador of Spain to the USSR and where he was elected President five months ago. Invited by Mr. Sergei Pavlov, President of the Soviet NOC, Mr. Samaranch's prime objectives on this trip were to discuss the Games of the XXIIInd Olympiad in retrospect with Soviet sports officials and to meet with Mr. Nikolai Tikhonov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

Mr. Samaranch's characteristically heavy programme began at the offices of the USSR Sports Committee on the morning of 9th January, the day after his arrival at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport. This initial meeting, at which the President of the IOC conferred with Mr. Pavlov on the critical issues currently affecting the Olympic movement, was followed by a luncheon at the "Sport" hotel.

It was at 15.00 hours that afternoon that the President of the IOC was introduced to Mr. Nikolai Tikhonov (see photo) at the Kremlin, seat of the Soviet Government. At their meeting, also attended by Mr. Vitaly Smirnov, Vice-President of the IOC, Mr. Ignati Novikov, President of the Moscow OCOG, and Mr. Pavlov, Mr. Tikhonov assured Mr. Samaranch of his country's continued commitment to the realisation of the Olympic ideal.

From the Kremlin, Mr. Samaranch proceeded to the State Central Institute of Physical Culture, where he had the opportunity to become acquainted with the study programmes and the training of specialists.

The next day, Mr. Samaranch viewed a specially prepared exhibition of a young peoples' sports school for gymnastics at the Dynamo sports club. His afternoon was taken up by a football match in the Granatkin Memorial Tournament for juniors in which Bulgaria was pitted against his native Spain.

On Mr. Samaranch's final day in Moscow, 12th January, he met with Mr. Novikov for discussions concerning the activities of the Moscow Organising Committee, which is currently in the process of winding up its affairs. Also taking part in the talks were the two IOC members in the USSR, Messrs. Vitaly



*The President meets Mr. Nikolai Tikhonov in Moscow.*

Smirnov and Constantine Andrianov, as well as Mr. Pavlov. At the close of this meeting, Mr. Samaranch was the guest of honour at a special luncheon given by the Moscow OCOG. The afternoon of the 12th was reserved for the President's press conference, held in Moscow's House of Friendship. Replying to journalists' questions, Mr. Samaranch stated that the reputation and prestige of the IOC had been greatly enhanced since the successful staging of the Olympic Games in Moscow and that he had complete confidence in the abilities and capacities of the committees responsible for the organisation of the 1984 Winter Games in Sarajevo and the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad in Los Angeles. He also underscored the importance of the forthcoming Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden at which the many major questions facing the modern Olympic movement will be subjected to thorough analysis and discussion.

Mr. Samaranch's next journey in February will certainly be of vital importance as it will take him to Africa. It is the President's hope that this trip, which includes stops in Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, will provide him with first-hand knowledge of the organisation of sport at all levels and assist Olympic organisers in determining the best means of encouraging the development of both sport and physical education.