

## President Samaranch visits Africa



*Malawi: At left, the final of the Press Holdings football cup, held at the Kamuzu Institute in Lilongwe. At right, President Samaranch speaks with Mr. John Magombo, Chairman of the Malawian NOC, at Kamuzu Stadium in Blantyre.*

It was at the outset of Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch's mandate as President of the IOC that he decided to undertake an extended trip to the African continent. The President's aim on this journey was to meet with Olympic officials and government representatives concerned with sport, seek out possible future IOC members, gain an understanding of the administrative structures of each country visited, evaluate the difficulties and needs of the NOCs concerned, and determine the best means by which the aims of the Olympic movement could be attained.

Accompanying the President on his tour through five countries (Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya and Madagascar) was Mr. Raymond Gafner, IOC member in Switzerland and President of the Swiss Olympic Committee, together with a member of the IOC secretariat. The journey began on 2nd February when the IOC party arrived in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, greeted by Messrs. W. Nyirenda and Benson Lombe, President and Secretary General respectively of the Zambian NOC. Officials were quick to take advantage of Mr. Samaranch's presence and a meeting was arranged with Mr. Nalumino Mundia, the Chairman of the Youth and

Sports Committee who was recently named Prime Minister of his country. The needs of the national sports movement were outlined, as were plans to stage the 1982 African Student Games in the country. Following the meeting, Mr. Samaranch was taken on a tour of the 30,000-seat Independence Stadium as well as the Zambian parliament, which features an impressive roof made of Zambian copper, the country's prime mineral wealth. The evening was devoted to informal discussions at a dinner with officials from the national federations.

On the following day, in the evening, the President of the IOC met with the Zambian Head of State, Mr. Kenneth Kaunda, at the latter's residence in the capital. Mr. Kaunda expressed his satisfaction at the great success enjoyed by the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow and assured the IOC President of his unwavering future support for the ideals of Olympism. The all too short stay in Zambia was completed by discussions with the Minister of Sport, Mr. Ben C. Kakoma.

On 4th February, the IOC delegation left for Salisbury, the capital of newly-independent Zimbabwe, where they were welcomed by Mr. Frank Lincoln and Dennis Hardman, Presi-



*A working luncheon. From left: Mr. Gafner, Mr. Nalumino Mondia, Chairman of the Youth and Sports Committee and now Prime Minister of Zambia, and the President of the IOC.*



*At Independence Stadium in Lusaka. From left: Mr. Benson Lombe, Secretary General of the NOC of Zambia (NOCZ), Mr. Gafner, Mr. Samaranch, Mrs. Emma Kateka, member of the NOCZ and Mr. W. Nyirenda, President of the NOCZ.*

dent and Secretary General of the Zimbabwe National Olympic Committee (ZOC).

Mr. Samaranch's first meeting in a heavy timetable was with the city's Mayor, Mr. Jack Whitting, who spoke of the Municipality's plans to upgrade sports facilities. The afternoon was set aside for talks with the Zimbabwe Olympic Committee's Executive Board, at which the tasks and objectives of the NOC were examined, as were the relations between Olympic leaders and the government. Mr. Samaranch and his delegation were the guests of honour at a special reception held that evening at Mr. Lincoln's home.

The following day was opened by a meeting with Mr. Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. In the course of their interview, Mr. Mugabe spoke of the important role to be played by sport in the development of the new nation and offered his support to the Olympic movement.

Representatives of Zimbabwe's 18 recognised national sports federations were then

accorded the opportunity of speaking with the President of the IOC in turn, and each sport outlined its specific problems in terms of available equipment, facilities, trained coaches, and international competition. In the afternoon, the IOC delegation held talks with officials from the ministry of sport, notably Mr. J. C. Muteru, the Permanent Secretary; and Mr. Alois T. Mangwende, Under Secretary, on the future of Zimbabwe's Olympic movement and the role to be assumed by the government. Further meetings were held the next day with Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Hardman, while the President's visit to Zimbabwe was completed by a visit to the capital's major sports facilities on the morning of 7th February, including the soon to be renovated national sports centre, the police ground, site for this year's Olympic Day, and the 38,000-seat Rufaro stadium.

Late that afternoon, the IOC delegation left for Malawi, renowned for its enchanting lake. Upon arrival in Blantyre, the country's main financial centre, the President met with Mr. John S. Magombo and Mr. Earnest Mzandu, President and Secretary General of the Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association of Malawi (OCGAM) and spoke to representatives of Malawi's national sports federations. The day ended with a reception hosted by Mr. E. C. J. Bwanali, regional minister for the south.

On 8th February, the IOC party embarked on a journey to Malawi's impressive new capital, Lilongwe, which boasts modern administrative buildings and endless stretches of lush greenery. Sunday was certainly no holiday for the Olympic emissaries, as talks were held with Mr. J. Z. U. Tembo, governor of the central bank and chairman of the National



*A basketball match at St. George's School in Salisbury.*



*The President of the IOC shown in discussion with Mr. Frank Lincoln, President of the ZOC and Mr. James Muteru, Permanent Secretary to Zimbabwe's Minister of Sport.*

Council of Sports as well as with Mr. D. D. Chipwanya, Minister of Youth and Culture, and Mr. Lawrence P. Anthony, Vice-Chairman of the National Council of Sport. Malawi did not participate in Montreal or in Moscow, as officials did not deem their athletes' standards sufficiently high for Olympic competition, but confidence was expressed that, with the help of Olympic Solidarity clinics and technical assistance from the International Federations, the nation's athletes would be present in Los Angeles. The afternoon was spent at the Kamuzu Institute Stadium, where the President of the IOC was most impressed with the quality of play he saw in the final of the Press Holdings Football Cup. "Some players were definitely of international standard", he concluded. The day's programme was completed by an informal meeting with the executive officers of the OCGAM at which the President suggested that the NOC devote its efforts to the development of volleyball and the organisation of an athletics course.

The following morning after returning to Blantyre, Messrs. Samaranch and Gafner toured the Kamuzu stadium (capacity 60,000) before boarding an aircraft for Nairobi.



*Meeting with the Executive of the Kenya Olympic Association. From left: Mr. Francis Njuguna, Secretary General of the KOA, Mr. Gafner, Mr. Samaranch, Mr. S. Mbogo Kamau, Chairman of the KOA, and Mr. Sharad S. Rao, Vice-Chairman.*

Mr. Samaranch's arrival in the Kenyan capital on 9th February was marked by a press conference outlining the objectives to be achieved by his visit. The following morning, the delegation attended a meeting with the principal figures of Kenyan sport, among them, Mr. R. S. Alexander, IOC member in Kenya, Mr. S. Mbogo Kamau, chairman of the Kenyan Olympic Association (KOA), Mr. Sharad S. Rao, vice-chairman, Mr. Francis Njuguna, secretary general, Mr. Jeremiah J. M. Nyanah, Minister for Cultural and Social Services, Mr. Joseph Muliro, Permanent Secretary, to the Minister and Mr. Charles Mukora, chairman of the Kenya National Sports Council. Also present was Comte de Beaumont, IOC member in France, certainly no stranger to Kenyan sport.

Although Kenyan athletes had not competed in the 1976 and 1980 Olympic celebrations, officials were optimistic on prospects for the 1984 Games in Los Angeles. The NOC also expressed an interest in staging a future meeting of the IOC Executive Board or perhaps even an IOC Session in the highly attractive Jomo Kenyatta conference centre.

On the question of the 4th African Games, it was felt that the proposed facilities would not be ready in time for 1982 as scheduled, but sports representatives were confident that Kenya could host the event at a later date, perhaps the 1986 edition. At the close of this meeting, Mr. Samaranch and his delegation were granted an audience with the Kenyan Head of State, Mr. Daniel Arap Moi, who offered his full support for Kenyan participation in future Olympic Games.

In the afternoon, the President and Mr. Gafner held an open forum with representatives of the national federations at which possibilities for improving national standards were advanced. This encounter was followed by a lively press conference attended by some twenty local journalists following which the President of the IOC was presented with the "Kenyan sportsman of the year" award by Mr. Philip Ndoos on behalf of the country's sports journalists' association.

On 11th February, Mr. Samaranch continued his discussion with Kenyan sports leaders, meeting this time the members of the KOA's executive. This meeting was followed by an encounter with the mayor of Nairobi, Mr. Nathan Kahara, who endorsed the KOA's plans to hold a future IOC meeting. The President's stay in Kenya was not without educational significance, as on the afternoon of 11th February, he gave an address to about one hundred enthusiastic students gathered at the Nairobi Railway Training School. The complete text of the President's address appears below.

The commitments of the IOC Executive Board meeting in Los Angeles did not permit the President to visit Madagascar, the final scheduled stop on the trip. Thus, Mr. Gafner undertook alone the visit to this fascinating and inviting island, whose influences stem not only from the African continent but also from Indonesia, Malaysia and perhaps even the South Pacific as well. In the course of his three-day visit to Antananarivo, the capital, Mr. Gafner held a series of talks with the executive officers of the Comité Olympique Malgache (COM), among them Mr. Edmond Ralijaona, president, and Mr. Auguste Rabe-



*Discussions with officials in Madagascar. Clockwise from left: Mr. Edmond Ralijaona, President of the Comité Olympique Malgache (COM), Mr. Gafner, Mr. Auguste Rabejaofera, Treasurer of the COM, and Dr. Charles Andiamania, Mayor of Antananarivo.*



*Mahamasina Stadium in Antananarivo.*

jaofera, treasurer, with particular emphasis placed on the jurisdictions of government and sporting bodies. Also present at discussions were two prominent figures in the national sports movement, Messrs. Odon Rafenoarisoa and Sabin Bernard Andrianarisata. From these talks, it became apparent that the statutes of the COM were no longer in conformity with the provisions of the "Olympic Charter", as the new structures for the organisation of sport in the country currently being implemented by the government placed restrictions on the NOC's autonomy. It was decided that the situation of the COM would be made known to the IOC Executive Board at its meeting in Los Angeles.

On 13th February, the IOC delegation was taken on a tour of Antananarivo's principal sports installations, including the 20,000 seat Mahamasina municipal stadium, the university grounds and various military and confessional sports complexes. The following morning was spent by Mr. Gafner in discussion with Mr. Solo Rajaonarivelo, Director of Sport and Physical Education in Madagascar and Secretary General of the Supreme National Sports Council. Relations between the Go-

vernment and the COM were the prime matter of discussion and the irregular situation of the country's NOC was treated at length.

The IOC delegation's stay in Madagascar came to an end with a working dinner attended by national sports representatives and by the Mayor of Antananarivo, Mr. Charles Andiamanja.

### **Conclusions**

The journey to Africa can be deemed an unqualified success in that the stated objective of forging personal contacts and acquiring knowledge of local structures was largely attained. Enthusiasm for Olympism and a willingness to achieve the aims of the movement were abundant in each of the countries visited. Deficiencies in equipment and trained instructors can be overcome through the continued work of Olympic Solidarity and expansion of technical assistance programmes of the IFs. Mr. Samaranch's next planned destinations in his programme to visit National Olympic Committees throughout the world include Norway, Sweden, Finland, Portugal and the Middle East.