

Presidential Activities



In Lisbon, the President of the IOC (at right) presenting the cup to the representative of the "Gimnasio Clube Portugues".



In Oslo and Holmenkollen

History and statistics are witnesses to the extraordinary implantation of the Olympic movement in Norway, the country with the highest proportion of Olympic medallists in relation to its population, the home of skiing, the country whose capital organised the VIth Winter Games...

These reasons, among others, are enough to explain why the President of the IOC, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, was keen to accept the Norwegian Olympic Committee's invitation as early as his first year of office. On arriving in Oslo on the evening of 13th March 1981, the President was welcomed by Mr. Jan Staubo, IOC member in Norway, and Mr. Arne B. Mollen and Mr. Joh. Chr. Schonheyd- respectively President and Secretary General of the NOC all three of whom continue in the steps of Norway's famous international sports leaders such as Thomas Fearnley, Henrik Angell, Johan Sverre and Olav Ditlev-Simonsen.

This trip enabled Mr. Samaranch both to strengthen or establish links with sports authorities on the one hand and government, local and administrative authorities in the country on the other, and to be present at the highlights of the famous skiing festival at Holmenkollen.

The morning of 14th March was devoted to a working meeting between the President of the IOC and the members of the NOC. Important Olympic issues were raised (Olympic Solidarity, international relations, eligibility rules, etc.), as well as discussion of the prospects for the future (the Olympic Congress, future Games, etc.)

Between these interviews, Mr. Samaranch was able to visit Holmenkollen twice, and experienced moments of intense sporting emotion there, particularly the victory of the Norwegian Oddvar Bra in the 50km cross-country skiing. The site has had a face-lift this year ; the 1982 world championships in cross-country skiing are to be held here, as are the events of the 81 festival, which is in fact a dress-rehearsal, will enable the new installations to be tried out. New grandstands, a new cross-country skiing stadium, a new building for technical installations, a new electronic score board, a modernised jump-run with an extended jump and a completely automatic starting platform are among the innovations at this skiing centre. It was here that, on 14th March, the President of the IOC met HM King Olav V of Norway, a well-known Olympic champion-he won the sailing event in the 6M class at the 1928 Games when he was Crown Prince. The following day, the President of the IOC was received in audience by the mayor of Oslo, Mr. Albert Nordengen. The evening of 15th March was reserved for the Norwegian sports association. Mr. Ode Jacob Bangstad, president of the association, assured the President of the IOC of the complete cooperation of all the country's sports associations.

With the FIBA authorities

The members of the FIBA's executive committee met in Barcelona on 18th March 1981, and had invited the President of the IOC to join them. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch was thus able to present personally to Mr. R. William Jones, the federation's Secretary General emeritus, the silver medal of the Olympic Order which had been awarded to him at the IOC's Session in Moscow. A few days afterwards, at the beginning of the Olympic Games, Mr. Jones became severely ill. In

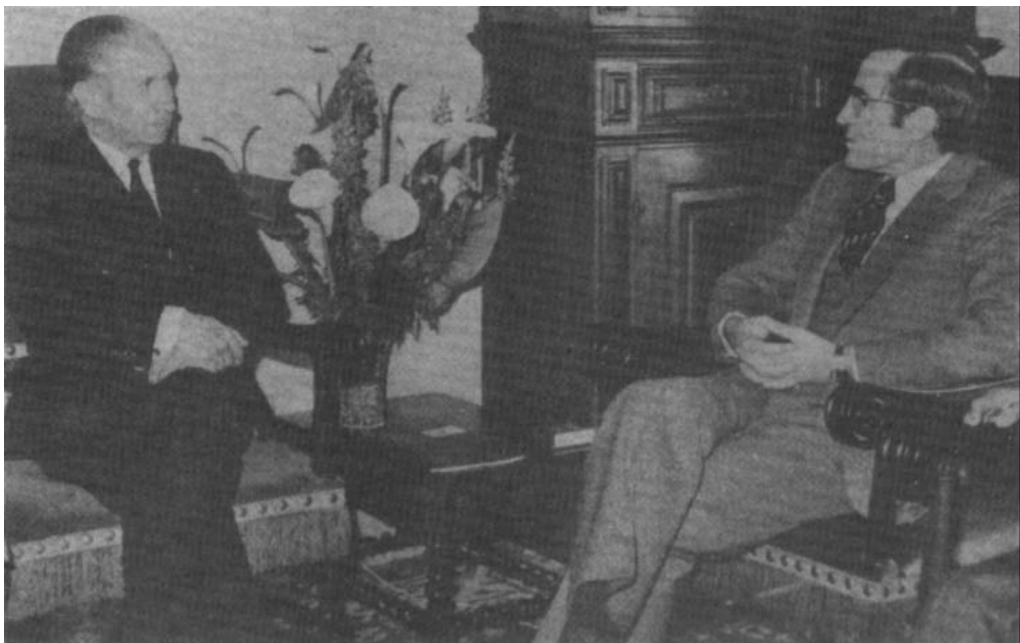
paying homage to the person who, from the birth of the FIBA, from 1932 to 1980, represented the federation with such mastery, authority and diplomacy, the President of the IOC evoked the emotion that the news had created within the Olympic movement and expressed his pleasure at seeing Mr. Jones on this occasion.



Mr. R. William Jones (left) together with Mr. Barislav Stankovic (right), Secretary General of the FIBA, and Mr. Anselmo Lopez, Secretary General of the Spanish Olympic Committee.

In Lisbon

Late in the afternoon on 18th March, the President of the IOC arrived in Lisbon. General Raul Cordeira Pereira de Castro, IOC member in Portugal, Brigadier Daniel Neves Sales Grade, president of the NOC, Mr. Fernando Belo, his recently-elected successor who took up his post the following day, and Mr. Ernesto T. Matos Soares, were waiting for him at the airport. The same evening, Mr. Samaranch visited the headquarters of the best-known of the sports clubs, the Ginasio



Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC (left), with General Ramalho Eanes, President of the Republic of Portugal.

Clube Portugues, which was celebrating its 106th anniversary. The President of the IOC was to present it with the "Olympic Cup", the award of which had been decided last July in Moscow during the IOC's 83rd Session¹.

The ceremony was cordial, solemn and brilliant. Athletes mingled with numerous state and administrative personalities : Mr. Manuel Diaz, representing the President of the Republic, Mr. Ferreira do Amaral, Minister for the Quality of Life, Mr. Gomes de Castro, Secretary of State for Sport, the director general of sport, the director of the National Sport Institute, and many others.

Mr. Mario Correira Ribiero and Mr. Antonio Pinto Tiburcio received the cup on the club's behalf. "This cup represents a tribute to our entire national sports movement which refused to desert the Olympic Games when they were in danger", said Mr. Sales Grade, president of the NOC.

The following two days enabled the President of the IOC to meet the President of the Re-

public, General Ramalho Eanes, and the prime minister, Mr. Francisco Pinto Balsemao. These top-level interviews in government and sports circles provided a better understanding of the principles which guide the Olympic movement and enabled the appropriate division to be made of the work which is favourable both to elite sport and to sport for all.

After having been present when Mr. Fernando Belo, the new president of the NOC, took up his duties, Mr. Samaranch took part in the first meeting of the executive commission elected for the period 1980-85.

Finally, at the end of his stay, the President of the IOC visited the headquarters of the roller-skating federation, where he was received by Mr. Jose Castel Branco, president of the technical committee of the international roller-skating federation for roller-hockey.



¹See "Olympic Review" N°. 154, p 413.