

Presidential activities

15th-20th November : In Latin-America



IOC President and President of the Argentinian Olympic Committee, Colonel Rodriguez

From the 15th-20th November, IOC President Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch officially visited five Latin American countries. Accompanied by Mr. Mario Vasquez Rana, President of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) and the Pan American Sports Organisation (ODEPA), this intensive trip afforded Mr. Samaranch an opportunity to make contact with IOC members, Heads of State, NOC authorities, government officials, sports personalities and athletes. Throughout the five days he acquainted these various personages with the Olympic movement and the activities of the International Olympic Committee. At the same time he became informed about the sports capacities in each of the countries and the workings of the respective NOCs.

Upon his arrival in Buenos Aires (ARG) he was received by IOC member Mr. Roberto G. Peper, Vice-Admiral Carlos Alberto Lacoste, Minister for National Social Action, Sports Secretary Dr. Santiago C. Leyden and President of the Argentinian NOC Colonel Antonio Rodriguez. The day included meetings with delegates of national sports federations, NOC members and various sports journalists. NOC President Colonel Rodriguez gave a report on sports organisation in Argentina and a film on Biathlon was shown. After dialogue between those present, Mr. Hernan Ceres, President of the Circle of National Sports Journalists, presented Mr. Samaranch with a reproduction of the gold medal of "olympia".

The following day included an official audience with the Head of State, General Roberto Viola and the Mayor of Buenos Aires, Mr. D. Osvaldo Andres Cacciatore. Afterwards Mr. Samaranch visited the sports center of the municipal park and then held a press conference.

In Montevideo (URU) he was greeted by Mr. Vallarino Veracierto. IOC member for Uruguay and President of the NOC and Colonel Alberto Lerena, President of the National Physical Education Board. During his stay there, the IOC President met with Sports Minister Mme Raquel Lombardo de Betulaza and Colonel Lerena. He toured the headquarters of the NOC, visited the Football Museum and was given an audience with the President of the Republic.

Arriving in Chile next, the President was welcomed with a colourful performance of folkloric dancers and singers. Joining him were IOC member, Mr. Alejandro Rivera Bascuro and members of the Executive Board of the NOC with the President, Mr. Gustavo Benko Kapuvary. That evening a ceremony was given in honor of Mr. Samaranch and representatives of the NOC, government and sports were present.

The next day, the 19th, he visited the National Stadium, the headquarters of the NOC, and then held a meeting in which he spoke, among other items, of Olympic solidarity and the future Olympic Museum.

In Paraguay several meetings were held between the President and sports related personages. Messrs. Adriano Jara Carmona, President of the Paraguayan Olympic Committee and Secretary General Carlos M. Mingo presented him with the Medal of Merit of the NOC. Others on hand for the occasion were Dr. Paul Peña, Minister of Education

and Culture, General Ortiz. President of the National Sports Council, with various governmental officials and sports figures of Paraguay.



IOC President and Chief of State of Paraguay General Stroessner

Mr. Samaranch's final stop during his busy week brought him to Rio de Janeiro (BRA) where he conferred with Mr. Joao Havelange. IOC member and President of the FIFA. Major Padhila, IOC member and President of his NOC and NOC Secretary General, General Ramiro Tavares Gonçalves, along with many sports personalities of Brasil. He held a final press conference covering his last five days of travel and communication with respect to sport in these countries, before his return to Europe.

Brussels : 28th November - 1st December 1981

Just before proceeding to Sarajevo (YUG) for meetings and viewing the site installations for the XIVth winter Games IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch accompanied by IOC Director Mme Monique Berlioux visited Brussels.

The three day visit gave the President an opportunity to meet with IOC Executive Board member Prince Alexandre de Mérode, Belgian Olympic Committee President Colonel Raoul Mollet and its Secretary General Adrien Vanden Eede. He attended a working session of the NOC at the "Maison Olympique" and met with the Belgian Sports Federations. Colonel Mollet was presented a silver tray by Mr. Samaranch in recognition of his NOC's 75th Anniversary and its success and organisation over the years.

The agenda included an audience with H. M. King Baudoin of the Belgians at the Laeken Palace and afterwards Mr. Samaranch attended the inauguration of the exhibition "Posters and Sport" at the headquarters of the Belgian Communal Credit. The showing represented a colourful perspective of Belgium's athletic history.



Prince Alexandre de Merode (right) and Colonel Raoul Mollet (centre) welcoming the IOC President.

Before their departure Mr. Samaranch and Mme Berlioux were welcomed guests at the XXXIIIrd Brussels Jumping Gala, a festive and traditional equestrian event.

