

## The President of the IOC addresses the IFs



*Los Angeles, 4th February 1982*

*IF delegates seated in front of the IOC Executive Board tribune.*

First of all, I would like to welcome you to Los Angeles and thank you for your consistent participation in these meetings between the Executive Board of the IOC and the International Federations whose sports feature in the Olympic programme. For some time now the recognised International Federations have also been present, and today, for the first time, two other members of the Olympic family are with us—the Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad and the representatives of the National Olympic Committees, to whom I extend my greetings. I am certain that this collaboration will bring a new proof of our mutual understanding and cooperation.

Please allow me now, on behalf of us all, to thank in particular the Los Angeles Organising Committee and above all its President, Mr. Peter Ueberroth, for the excellent organisation of this meeting and the warm hospitality which they have offered to us. They have opened wide to us the doors of the Organising Committee, convinced, and they are right in thinking so, that we are here to help them. That is indeed our reason for being here : to make

a positive contribution without restraint to the successful organisation of the 1984 Olympic Games and the sporting competitions which will take place. It is our duty to be able to give this help.

Before turning to the agenda for this meeting, I thought it would be useful to draw up an assessment of the action or actions undertaken since our last meeting in Lausanne in April 1981, and since our meeting in Monte Carlo last October. We had before us a certain number of matters of great importance, which we will also deal with during these meetings in Los Angeles.

The XIth Olympic Congress at Baden-Baden marked an historical step, and each of the members of the Olympic movement who participated in it must be congratulated for the role they played in this affair. At the time of our meeting in Monte Carlo last October I tried to point out briefly and to indicate what the future lines of action as laid down by the Congress will be.

Let us try today to be more precise, to follow point by point the final declaration adopted

unanimously by the Congress and the Tripartite Commission at Baden-Baden.

The first theme concerned the Olympic Games, and five resolutions were made concerning this subject.

The first resolution stated that "The programme of the future Olympic Games must reflect to a greater extent the modern trends of sport". Two days later the 84th Session of the IOC, meeting in Baden-Baden, took an historical decision in admitting two new sports to the programme of the Olympic Games of 1988, namely tennis and table tennis.

Water skiing obtained Olympic recognition.

The number of teams taking part in Olympic events increased from 18 to 20, thus allowing a better representation of women's sports.

In return, the International Federations concerned were requested to reduce the number of members of each team, taking into account the fact that Olympic competitions are in general shorter and have less events than the corresponding world championships.

The Session also gave the Executive Board the task of drawing up a new definition of the Winter Games, based on snow and ice sports.

To close this chapter, let us also mention the nomination of Mr. Arpad Csanadi as Honorary Sports Director of the IOC.

As far as Rule 26 is concerned, the Session followed the recommendations of the Congress and entrusted to the IFs the responsibility of proposing their own rules for admission to the Games. In doing this, the Session adopted, however, certain lines of conduct which have been communicated to you and which come back to the following point : there must not be any discrimination amongst athletes; the conditions of participation for the world championships and large international competitions must not differ from those adopted for the Olympic Games. As you know, you have until the end of the year to submit to the IOC your new Eligibility Rules. I would like to think that their approval will not cause any difficulty.

The protocol of the ceremonies, in accordance with general opinion, was retained. The number of recipients of Olympic diplomas was, however, increased from 6 to 8.

The Session, following the recommendation of the Congress, rejected the proposition aimed at organising the Olympic Games at a permanent site.

Regarding closer collaboration between the different factions of the Olympic movement, today's meeting is a perfect illustration of this because not only are the IOC and the IFs present, but also the Organising Committee and the NOCs. In the same way a working group is at present studying a programme for unification linking the three main forces of the Olympic movement, that is to say, the IOC, the IFs and the NOCs, to preserve their independence.

On the second theme, "International Cooperation", the Congress demanded that the Olympic Games be supported by everyone. We have already appointed a working group to study this theme, and we hope with the aid and support of everyone to establish an international charter for the protection of the Olympic Games, under the guidance of the UN. In some days time I will moreover be meeting in New York with the new Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The problem of doping was an important theme of the Congress and led to a major recommendation. We also acted immediately on this, and the Executive Board is going to study different measures to reinforce the controls and the sanctions against all responsible parties. Close collaboration has already been established between the Medical Commission of the IOC, under the direction of the Prince de Merode, and certain IFs, including the IAAF, with whom we had discussions on this subject last December. Similar contact is envisaged with the FIAC and the FISU. I think that the essential thing will be the opportunity of controlling the athletes at any given place or time of year.

In this respect, I can only encourage each International Federation to organise its own Medical Commission, in close collaboration with the Medical Commission of the IOC, which is prepared to give you any necessary assistance.

That is the repressive side of matters. But the IOC Medical Commission is also equally interested in the educational aspect, and the new sub-commissions will allow us, I hope, to tackle this question seriously.

Of course, Olympic Solidarity has not been forgotten by the Congress. You will have noticed that we have reformed and restructured the Olympic Solidarity Commission and that the great majority of its members belong to the NOCs. Thus, in future, each continent will prepare its own programme.

The third theme of the Congress concerned the future of the Olympic movement.

As the Congress reminds us, the IOC must continue to be the "leader" of the Olympic movement for many reasons. But as I already said in Monte Carlo, the independence of the other members of the Olympic movement, and in particular that of the IFs, is sacred to the IOC. We do not intend to force anyone to do anything. Moreover, we must achieve unity, because it is by remaining united that we have won the recent battles such as those of Moscow or Baden-Baden. United we are stronger, and each one of us must be aware of this.

That is one of the reasons why the resolution which recommended the enlarging of the Tripartite Commission has been unanimously adopted by the Congress and the Tripartite Commission. This Tripartite Commission, in which Messrs. Keller, Palmer and Sabetzki have so actively participated since its creation, has become the Commission for the Olympic movement, offering a larger and more adequate representation to the three groups, with nine members of each. The delegation of the IOC includes the President of the Athletes' Commission.

This new commission must above all occupy itself with the great problems which sport has to face, and must meet once a year. I hope to reach a similar agreement with the IFs as easily as we arrived at our agreement with the Winter Federations to designate their own representatives. As for the preparation for the next Congress, this will be assured by the creation of a small sub-commission.

In creating this Commission for the Olympic movement, or more by enlarging the existing Tripartite Commission, I wish to meet two objectives: first of all to respect the unanimous wish for this of the Congress, whilst acknowledging the IOC as the leader of the whole of the Olympic movement; secondly, to reassemble around one table all those who follow or recognise the Olympic ideals. That is why I was particularly surprised to see in the press certain criticisms reproaching me for having exactly that attitude. You all know me, and I think that I know you and can speak with each of you more and more freely, as has never been done before.

The independence of each of the members of the movement is for me a sacred thing.

The Congress unanimously deplored the absence of women in the higher levels of sport organisation. As you know, the Session elected the first two women in the entire history of the IOC, and I can assure you that they will not be the last.

The importance of the role played by television also drew the attention of the Congress. I would like to assure you that the contacts with all television companies are very close, numerous and profitable. But one must keep this principle in mind: the aim of the Olympic movement in negotiating with television is not just to obtain money but also to ensure the greatest possible coverage of the Olympic Games, and also of each particular sport.

This campaign for broadcasting is among our efforts in liaison with UNESCO to integrate Olympism as an educational subject on the programme of schools and universities.

All these actions, these resolutions, these future meetings, will demand for their practical application or full realisation increased financial means. That is why we have also formed a working group in charge of studying possible new sources of finance.

Contacts have been made with big international firms, but we are aware that the utmost care must be taken that we do not lose effective control.

Finally, and you will also agree with this, there is much to be done by each of us, as fair play and the sporting spirit are far from foreign to us.

We are very close to organisations which are concerned with this, and are ready to help them, to help you, in this sphere with all our strength and all our resources.

As you will know, none of the recommendations of Baden-Baden have remained without response. In just a few months of effort, a tremendous task has been accomplished. We know that there is more to be done, and that our task will never be completed. But with your help, your support and your understanding we are ready to go further. It is one of the arms of this meeting to achieve as much as possible.

I thank you in advance for your collaboration and your constructive suggestions.

But we must also profit by our presence in Los Angeles by studying, on the spot, the conditions in which the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad will take place. Thanks to the help of the Organising Committee, we have been able to visit and examine in detail the sites proposed for the majority of the sports. You have met those responsible for your respective sports, you have been able to discuss with them the practical organisation and the thousands of questions which are to be solved.

We have seen this large family, of which I spoke at the Congress, in full swing. That is why I am particularly glad to see you all reunited here. I can assure you that we will maintain this initiative in the future and that we will not only continue to organise regularly such meetings in the host cities, but all the members of the Olympic family will be associated with these meetings, even if they are not directly involved in them: the NOCs will be invited to meetings of the Executive Board with the International Federations, and the IFs to meetings of the Executive Board with the NOCs. I am therefore already able to tell you that you are invited to send a delegation here for the same time next year for a meeting between the Executive Board and the National Olympic Committees. Moreover, I will take advantage of this occasion to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Ueberroth and the LAOOC, who accepted the principle of this meeting.

My last words at Baden-Baden served to affirm that the Congress which we experienced was the Congress of hope, the Congress of change.

For me, this change has already been realised in many areas. But the most important thing in my eyes is to have recognised how to preserve and reinforce our unity.

I would like to conclude by this appeal which I ask you to constantly bear in mind : our unity is our strength.

Thank you.

*Juan Antonio Samaranch*

