

Presidential activities



In Paris January 1982

Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, went to Paris on 14 and 15th January this year for the centenary of the Racing Club de France. He was accompanied by M^{me} Monique Berlioux, Director of the IOC.

On 14th January, Mr. Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, gave a reception for numerous personalities of the sporting world (in the sumptuous setting of the Town Hall). Apart from Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, to whom the Mayor of Paris presented the Grand Medal of Honour of the Town of Paris, the guests included Mr. Maurice Herzog, member of the International Olympic Committee in France, Mr. Claude Collard, President of the French National Olympic and Sports Committee, Mr. Roger Menard, President of the Racing Club de-France, and Mr. Jacques Goddet, Director General of the famous French sports newspaper « L'Equipe ».

On Friday 15th January, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch was received at the Elysée by Mr. François Mitterrand, President of the French Republic. The President of the IOC was accompanied by M^{me} Monique Berlioux, Director of the IOC, Mr. Jean de Beaumont and Mr. Maurice Herzog, IOC members in France. During their conversation, which lasted three-

From left to right : Mr. Mitterrand, M^{me} Berlioux, Messrs, Herzog, de Beaumont and Samaranch.

quarters of an hour, Mr. François Mitterrand discussed some of the main topics relating to sport in the world today and in particular the big French projects, including a large international exhibition on the theme of sport and culture to be held in the new Beaubourg Centre.

Later, Mr. Roger Menard, President of the Racing Club de France, received Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch in the club premises in rue Eblé, and presented him with the gold medal of the Racing Club de France. The opening of the centenary of the Racing Club de France was also attended by Mrs. Edwige Avice, Minister of Youth and Sport, Mr. Mohamed Mzali, member of the International Olympic Committee in Tunisia and Prime Minister of Tunisia, Prince Alexandre de Merode, IOC member in Belgium, Mr. Jean de Beaumont, Mr. Thomas Keller, President of the General Assembly of International Sports Federations and the International Rowing Clubs Federation, Mr. Primo Nebiolo, President of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, and Mr. Paul Libaud, President of the International Volleyball Federation. At the end of the evening, in the Cercle Interallié, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch presented Mr. Jacques Goddet, Director General of "L'Equipe" with

the silver medal of the Olympic Order in recognition of the long, efficient and enthusiastic friendship that Mr. Goddet has always shown towards sport and Olympism.

Below are the three speeches made by the President of the IOC during his stay in Paris.

Speech by the President of the IOC at the reception given by the Municipality of Paris 14th January 1982

For a President of the International Olympic Committee, to be back in Paris again always represents a moment rich in emotion and memories. France and the city of Paris are in fact so closely connected with the birth of the IOC and the modern Olympic movement that it is impossible not to think of this the moment one sets foot on French soil.

How could anyone, from anywhere in the world, forget the ceremony in the month of June 1894 when Pierre de Coubertin gathered together in the Sorbonne the whole sports world of the day, to found the International Olympic Committee?

Moreover, Paris has twice staged the Olympic Games, in 1900 and in 1924, and we would not be surprised if it did not wish to commemorate with particular brilliance another centenary than the one we are celebrating today. The founders of the Racing Club de France were in

fact closely associated with the Olympic venture and I am quite sure that they would contribute once again with as much enthusiasm as their predecessors to such an undertaking.

It is encouraging, Mr. Mayor, to see the interest that the city of Paris shows in the sporting life of its citizens and the pride it takes in the achievements of the best of them. During the last hundred years, the Racing Club de France has spared no efforts to give it such achievements, so that its name is also indissolubly associated with that of the city of Paris.

But it is not only sports memories that give life to Paris. Your Municipality considers sport a social necessity. For proof, one has only to think of the projects for sports installations that this city continues to plan and construct. The new "Palais des Sports" in Paris will, I am sure, be another fine example of the city's great sports awareness.

The cooperation of the Municipality on the occasion of the coming European Nations Football Cup will give further proof of its sporting vocation in the most popular sport in the world.

Allow me therefore, Mr. Mayor, and Mr. President, in the name of the whole Olympic movement, to wish a very happy anniversary to the most famous club in the French capital, the Racing Club de France.

Speech by the President of the IOC for the Hundredth Anniversary of the Racing Club de France 15th January 1982

It is a hundred years now since intellectual Europe began to show an active interest in physical and sports activities, in imitation of the great British public schools and on the initiative of a number of enlightened and keen young men. One of them, and not the least by any means, was Baron 'Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the International Olympic Committee in 1894. But if the IOC was able to be created in Paris, it is because several decades previously a few big sports associations and clubs, like the one whose centenary we are celebrating today, had been founded in France.

It is not my intention here to retrace the origin or the history of the Racing Club de France. Others are in a much better position than I am to do so, and with an authority that I would not have. While expressing the wishes and friendly greetings of the Olympic movement as a



The President of the RCF and French Minister of Youth and Sport.

whole, I should simply like to pay the homage it deserves to this young ancestor of French and international sport, born of the determination and enthusiasm of those who, a few years later, were to create the International Olympic Committee.

From the very moment of its foundation, the Racing Club de France was to play a vital role not only in the development of sport in France but also owing to the incomparable international reputation it was to give French sport for so many years.

The greatest champions, the most famous names in French sport have for over half a century, practically without exception, been members of the Racing Club de France.

On looking at France's Olympic honours list, we keep coming across the name of the Racing Club de France, closely linked with the greatest French Olympic athletes, of which Madame Monique Berlioux, Director of the IOC, is one. It would be difficult to find another sports club that can boast so many members having competed in the Olympic Games.

Such fame has naturally acted as a spur to more and more serious rivals striving to wrest its supremacy from it. A healthy rivalry, which makes it possible for us today to congratulate this venerable centenarian on the ever renewed ardour and keenness originally shown by the adolescents and young people of 1882, and which their successors have always preserved.

It is for this reason that I am very pleased and also very proud to be with you on the occasion of the first centenary of a club which so truly lives up to and represents the Olympic ideals.

Its motto : "A century for sport in the service of sport" reminds me moreover of the motto for our Olympic Congress: "United by and for Sport".

I consider that the IOC is greatly indebted to the Racing Club de France and one can always count on the IOC to honour its debts.

Happy birthday, Mr. President.

Long live the Racing Club de France!..

Speech by the President of the IOC for the presentation of the Olympic Order to Mr. Jacques Goddet 5th January 1982

...We are gathered here today to honour a man who has devoted his whole life to sport and whom the International Olympic Committee

wished to honour at its 84th Session in Baden-Baden by awarding him the silver medal of the Olympic Order.

It is with the greatest pleasure therefore that I greet here my friend Jacques Goddet, before presenting him with this Olympic distinction for his exceptional career.

I was fortunate enough to see him at work, over a quarter of a century ago now, when the "Tour de France" arrived in Barcelona for the first time. It was on this occasion that I was able to appreciate at their true value the great



Mr. Jacques Goddet (right) and the President of the IOC.

qualities as an organiser and a true sportsman, combined with great qualities of heart, that made Jacques Goddet a real Olympian, with a tremendous dedication to sport.

It is only fair to mention, however, that the path was well marked out for him. I am sure that Jacques Goddet will not mind my recalling here the memory of his father Victor, the founder of the famous paper "L'Auto", the predecessor of the present "L'Equipe".

The son was to inherit the paternal passion to the full, devoting his whole life first of all to sports journalism, then to the Tour de France.

For the name of Jacques Goddet is inseparably linked with two ventures : that of the daily newspaper "L'Equipe", which he founded in 1946 and of which he now so successfully occupies the post of Director General, then that of the Tour de France which he started up again after the second World War and which he continues to run with admirable efficiency and love, seeming to welcome obstacles just for the pleasure of overcoming them. I have no hesitation in saying here that the greatest conqueror of obstacles in the Tour, the greatest "Grand Prix de la Montagne", is Jacques Goddet himself.

There is no need to remind you here in detail of the great work of sports education, Olympic information and the maintenance or enthusiasm for everything relating to sport accomplished each day by "L'Equipe", thanks to a pleiad of journalists of rare competence and unparalleled devotion to sport. Jacques Goddet, at the head of his paper, has succeeded in establishing and maintaining "L'Equipe" as the Bible, the bedside book of all sportsmen.

In all his activities, Jacques Goddet has always sought to defend and to spread the

sports idea, the sports ideal, the practice of sport. A champion of Olympism, he has always succeeded in illustrating the best side of it.

Mr. Jacques Goddet, in recognition of your outstanding merit in the cause of amateur sport and your loyalty to the Olympic ideal conceived by Pierre de Coubertin, the reviver of the Olympic Games, I take pleasure in awarding you the silver medal of the Olympic Order.



At the Chateau the Vaduz from the right Franz-Joseph II, Mr. Samaranch, Mr. Hilmar Ospelt, Sports Minister of the Principalty, Mr. Rudolf Schädler.

Liechtenstein

(21st - 22nd February)

The President of the IOC, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, paid an official visit to the Principality of Liechtenstein in the middle of January. A reception was held upon his arrival by the Government and on hand was the Prime Minister Hans Brunhart, along with various governmental and sports authorities.

Mr. Samaranch toured the headquarters of the National Olympic Committee, which is presided by Peter Ritter. He visited several sports facilities in the Principality, among them the only ski resort, that of Malbun. He was greeted there by some sixty young skiers who welcomed him with a chorus sung in English. The President was particularly

interested in a football pitch which has been built on stilts, also due to the mountainous terrain of the country.

That afternoon he was officially received at the Palace by H. S. H. Prince Regnant Franz-Joseph II and his wife, the Princess Gina. The Crown Prince was an IOC member from 1936 to 1980 and has been responsible for much of the development of sports in the Principality. At this occasion, along with Peter Ritter, the three previous Presidents of the Liechtenstein Olympic Committee were gathered-Alexander Frick, Hans Ritter and Xaver Frick.

Mr. Samaranch praised the LOC for its work and success in the world of sports. Though a small country, Liechtenstein has produced some fine athletes, including medal winners in previous Olympic Games.

At the White House

Immediately preceding Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch's arrival in Los Angeles for the meetings, he met with the President of the United States of America, Mr. Ronald Reagan. Joining them were Mr. Peter Ueberroth, President of the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee and Michael Deaver, Deputy Chief of Staff to President Reagan. The official visit took place at the White House in Washington, D. C. where they discussed the plans and progress of the Olympic movement and the approaching Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984.

Below is a reproduction of a letter sent to the President of the IOC by Mr. Deaver in regards to the assurance of the United States government in assisting in the security for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles:

February 8, 1982

Dear Mr. Samaranch:

It was a pleasure visiting with you and President Reagan last week at the White House.

Pursuant to the conversation regarding the issue of security at the Olympic Games of 1984, I have discussed this matter with Mr. Edward V. Hickey, Jr., who has been designated to coordinate the role of all federal law enforcement agencies in support of the games.

Please be assured that the United States government, as host country for the 1984 Olympic Summer Games, acting within the scope of its responsibility to the games, is prepared to provide whatever assistance is needed by state and local governments to conduct their security requirements to insure the safety of the 1984 summer games in Los Angeles.

Again, many thanks for what you are doing and we look forward to a very successful 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Deaver
Assistant to the President
Deputy Chief of Staff

Rome

(23rd February)

The President then travelled to Rome where he attended an extraordinary meeting of the International Amateur Basketball Federation (FIBA). The theme of the seminar was "The future of European and World Basketball". More than 100 delegates from 33 countries participated in the discussions and this gave the President an opportunity to meet with important sports leaders. The meeting was conducted by the joint authority of Borislav Stankovic, Secretary General of the FIBA, Robert Busnel, President of the European Association of Basketball and FIBA Vice-President, and Enrico Vinci, President of the Italian Basketball Federation.

Some of the more important points brought up in discussion were the plans for restructuring the FIBA headquarters and its secretariat, the problems of commercialism in sport and the status and future of the high-caliber athlete.

● IOC and UN

On 10th February, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, was received in New York by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuéllar. A preliminary draft of the resolution concerning the protection of the Olympic movement was presented. The Secretary General of the United Nations showed a particular interest in this matter.

● IOC and FIFA

On 11th February 1982 in Lausanne, President of the IOC Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch received Mr. Joao Havelange, President of the International Football Association (FIFA).

During this interview the future eligibility rule of the FIFA for the Olympic Games was discussed.

Mr. Joao Havelange officially invited Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch and the members of the IOC Executive Board to attend the next World Cup Football tournament in Spain in June/July 1982.



The President of the IOC awards the medal of the Olympic Order to Gregor Hradetzky; Mr. von Scholler is to the right and Mr. Heller is to the left.

In Schladming

On the 26th and 27th of January President of the IOC, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, assisted in the Opening Ceremony of the Alpine Ski Championships in Schladming, Austria.

The evening of the 26th, Mr. Samaranch attended a reception given on the part of Philipp von Schoeller, IOC member from Austria. At this dinner affair several delegates from the Organising Committee of the Championships were present including its president Dr. Fred Sinowatz who is the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Austria. Also at this reunion, were several sports leaders and officials including Toni Sailer, Olympic gold medallist in Alpine Skiing in the 1964 Games in Innsbruck. Marc Hodler, President of the International Ski Federation and IOC member for Switzerland, and Arpad Csanadi, IOC member and IOC Honorary Sports Director. During the reception Mr. Samaranch awarded the bronze medal of the Olympic Order to

Gregor Hradetzky, Austrian gold medallist in Canoe events at the 1936 Olympic Games and considered today one of the most famous organ makers.

The next morning, the Opening Ceremonies took place outside in the center of the village. Mr. Samaranch took part in this event alongside the Federal President of the Austrian Republic, Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger, Dr. Sinowatz and Dr. Josef Krainer, Governor of the Province of Styria.

In the afternoon, the President of the IOC had an audience with Dr. Kirchschläger, in which he presented to him a silver tray, gift of the Olympic movement. Before leaving Schladming, on his way to the United States for a meeting with President Reagan and then Olympic meetings in Los Angeles, Mr. Samaranch attended a reception given by Dr. Kirchschläger, which gathered among others, Kurt Heller, President of the Austrian Olympic Committee, Messrs. von Schoeller and Sinowatz.