

## Olympic Week in Lausanne

*In our article presenting Olympic Week 1982 in Lausanne (No. 172-173, page 79) we announced the giving of the Olympic flag to the Municipality. Here are the speeches given by the President of the IOC, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch and by the Mayor of Lausanne, Mr. Paul-René Martin, on this occasion.*

### 27th February 1982 Speech by the President of the IOC Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch

Monsieur Le Syndic,  
Municipal Councillors,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Sixty-seven years ago, amidst the troubled hours of the First World War, the most illustrious of my predecessors and father of the modern Olympics, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, signed a treaty with Mayor Maillefer establishing Lausanne as the headquarters of the IOC.

This decision was not one of chance. If Switzerland's neutrality during this period of discord played a certain role at the time of this resolution, the appreciation Coubertin had for Lausanne and its inhabitants was no less important.

As a result of his many visits along the shores of Vaud, as he himself stated in his "Memoirs", he became acquainted with and grew to appreciate the particular character of the inhabitants of this district.

The headquarters of the IOC were at that time located in France, at the home of its President. This situation was a difficult one for Coubertin as he could see the potential danger for the Olympic movement being associated with a nation under war. It was for this reason that, after making contact with an old family friend Dr. Morax, Director of the Vaudois Sanitary Services, he organised a sports psychology congress in Lausanne in 1913, with the support of Professor Milloud from the University of Lausanne, and of the young Dr. Messerli and Mr. Motta, then President of the Confederation.

It was also without hesitation that in 1915 he alone decided to sign with Mayor Maillefer this famous treaty establishing Lausanne as the

headquarters of the IOC. At the same time he asked his colleague Baron Godefroy de Blonay, at his Chateau de Granson near Lausanne, "to relace him in his official duties" as of the 1st January 1916. Moreover a modest skeleton of the Olympic Museum was installed at the Montbenon Casino.

At the end of the War, Coubertin hastened to gather his colleagues to endorse the decision for a permanent centre for Olympism and to confirm the choice of Lausanne. The 25th Anniversary of the IOC furnished him with an appropriate occasion. Presided over by the new President of the Confederation, Mr. Gustave Ador, the celebration of this quarter of a century by the city of Lausanne in 1919, helped to convince his colleagues. In 1922 the IOC installed for the first time its offices on the third floor of the Mon Repos Villa, donated by the community. The Olympic Museum was then founded and installed in 1934 by Coubertin. He himself lived there for a time.

From 1922 to 1967, the Mon Repos Villa accommodated the Olympic movement. From the many meetings held there, the most renowned names associated with Olympism were lured, as well as an unceasing number of journalists who came to associate the name of Lausanne with the world of sports.

The city often envisaged the idea of organising the Olympic Games, never winning the bid. The most recent tentative date was in 1960. I hope that the next time will be crowned with success.

But if this honour does not fail her, Lausanne nevertheless has developed a combination of sports activities and installations where before there existed few. It is truly a city of sports.

In 1967, the Mon Repos Villa's quarters being too cramped, the municipality graciously donated the Chateau de Vidy to the IOC. Unfortunately the Museum could not accompany the move, and for the time being closed its doors.



*The President of the IOC during his speech; to his left, Mr. Paul-René Martin, Mayor of Lausanne, and Mr. Jean-Pierre Nicod, the Municipal Secretary.*

Thanks to the new arrangement with the city, a provisional museum and a centre for Olympic studies will open in a few months on Ruchonnet Avenue. We hope to install ourselves, in three or for years' time, in a new building that the IOC will erect in Lausanne, giving more weight to its title "Olympic City" already accorded to your town.

Mr. Mayor, with these actions, these hopes, these activities – the city of Lausanne has always assisted and supported them to the best of her ability. All of your predecessors, from Mayor Maillefer to Mayor Delamuraz, including Messrs. Rosset and Chevallaz, have understood and foreseen the attraction and advantage of establishing an organisation such as the IOC in Lausanne.

Their positive collaboration with the successive Presidents of the IOC – Pierre de Coubertin, Baillet-Latour, Sigfrid Edstrom, Avery Brundage and Lord Killanin – permits this historic day to occur. Thanks to their successful actions, and their great vision for the future, they have contributed to the Olympic movement a universally recognised strength. The action of the Swiss Confederation in decreeing the IOC a non-governmental international organisation is evident proof.

It is for all these reasons, Mr. Mayor, and all of you here, that I may today affirm that the city of Lausanne and the International Olympic Committee are united by more bonds than can

be imagined. In sixty years of effective collaboration, this union has been a positive and deepening one.

Also, I have the privilege and great honour, Mr. Mayor, to place into your hands the Olympic flag, symbol of the recognition of our organisation to the city of Lausanne. It is the true demonstration of our wish to remain within these walls.

I hope all your citizens are honoured as well, and please thank them for their support of the Olympic movement.

J. A. S.

#### **Speech by the Mayor of Lausanne. Mr. Paul-René Martin**

Lausanne, Olympic city. Even though some of the tourist signs at the entrances to our town already display the five rings, that is not of course the most essential thing, nor is it the spirit that now unites the IOC with our city. Mr. President, it is the moving ceremony to which we both wished to give a solemn character – of your presentation of the Olympic banner to the town of Lausanne, that shows the true quality and depth of the relations between your Movement and Lausanne.

The honour you are paying us today fills us with feelings other than those of pride and vanity. Lausanne feels the honour of its Olympic consecration over and above the joy

and the jubilation; I believe that this evening we can speak of true happiness. our attachment to the Olympic movement is so great-so natural I was going to say-that the people of Lausanne are inclined to think that if the IOC has decided to make its permanent home in Lausanne, how could it have been otherwise ? And yet we all know the obstacles that had to be overcome, the difficulties of all kinds that had to be solved.

Lausanne. Olympic City-we experience the event too in the communion of the ideal that inspires the movement. This ideal attacked by the hasty judgement of some and defiled by the regrettable deeds of others nevertheless goes on from strength to strength-and fortunately, for without it a non-governmental movement as universal as this would not have survived for so long.

It is obvious that the spirit of competition carried to the extreme, and even given a political character, raises acute problems. And yet in itself, competition is healthy, it makes it possible to compare oneself with others and in trying to surpass them, to surpass above all oneself. That nationalism and chauvinism are inevitable accompaniments, we must try and accept with serenity. Haven't we all felt personal pride at the success of an athlete from our region, our country, as we do moreover in other fields, for eminent artists in particular? It is inherent in man as a social being and, in this instance, in the spirit of competition. We shall never be able to prevent spectators from identifying themselves with their heroes and there is nothing wrong in this either. After all, weren't the Olympic victors of Antiquity honoured by their cities ? We must, therefore, resign ourselves to the fact, while avoiding all excesses, if possible.

What is important for Olympism. in my view, is its universal vocation, which is its greatest *raison d'être*. Whenever this universality is weakened by measures taken against certain political regimes, one of the Olympic rings is damaged in its substance. Politics of course should not affect sport. But, here too, let us try to be reasonable. How can we reasonably expect national antagonisms that are inflamed on the political level to be smoothed away without any difficulty when it comes to sport? There is strategy and there are tactics. The strategy of universality must suffer no flaw in the finality of the Olympic movement. Tactics can compel us not to be uncompromising with regard to political feelings when these are temporarily aroused. But, once again, we must at all costs preserve this breath of universality even if its warmth is sometimes very subdued.

The Olympic movement moreover has given proof of its ability to take in its stride obstacles that were thought to be insuperable; that is to say, in fact, that over and above competition itself, there is a philosophy that engenders a state of mind. H. E. Mr. Mohamed Mzali, Prime Minister of the Tunisian Republic, brilliantly described this problem last Monday. This state of mind is such that I cannot wait to pay you the finest of all compliments, Mr. President, Madam the Director, Ladies and Gentlemen representing the IOC : if there is one organisation in the world that has a chance of contributing one day to ensuring peace, or at least avoiding war, it is yours. I know we are not there yet, unfortunately, but the Olympic spirit inherited from Ancient Greece is very much in that vein !

Today Lausanne is proud, without any false pride; and, as I have said, Lausanne is happy too. Today's ceremony reminds us of 'the meeting of the Municipal Council on 10th April 1915. At that meeting, Baron de Coubertin officially announced to the Mayor of that time, Mr. Maillefer, the IOC's decision to make its home in Lausanne and establish its headquarters here. On that occasion, he spoke as follows :

"The deed being accomplished at this moment was prepared a long time ago. In 1907, it had been planned that this country would become the hub of our international activity. The Congress which since then, under your auspices, gathered together in Lausanne the friends of sport, and in which the public authorities played such an effective role, could but fortify a resolution that everything tends to justify. This fair City, in which both Greece and France count so many friends, is no stranger either to any of the many facets of contemporary civilisation. Its hospitality is proverbial, its renown universal. The work of equilibrium and beauty that the International Olympic Committee has undertaken and directed for twenty years will be able to continue here fruitfully. Olympism will find, in the independent and proud atmosphere breathed here, the guarantee of freedom that it needs to flourish".

Lausanne will go on trying, as in the past, to remain worthy of its role as the Olympic City, a sort of capital of world sport. It has no particular merit in this, even if Baron de Coubertin paid it a few compliments.

"Ask that workman and that student who have just passed each other on the Grand-Pont, ask that rabid radical and that notorious reactionary who are chatting together in such a friendly way, ask that shopkeeper and that playwright



*The President of the IOC congratulating Mr. Jean-Pascal Delamuraz*

strolling together down the Petit-Chêne. They all complain a little from time to time so as to keep in practice and because it sharpens the appetite, but they all agree about one thing-it's good to live in Lausanne... better than anywhere else !"

I do not know whether it really is better to live in Lausanne than anywhere else. All we want, Mr. President, is to try and make it true for you and the IOC, in homage to the movement you represent, but also because of the warmth of the friendly relations we have with you and your staff.

Lausanne accepts the Olympic banner you bestow upon it today. It does so, fully aware that this honour obliges it to remain a land of welcome, a place where-in all serenity and brotherhood-the Olympic movement can flourish and prosper in a great vocation of universality and peace.

P.R.M.

*In awarding the silver medal of the Olympic Order to Mr. Jean Pascal Delamuraz, national Councillor and one-time Mayor of Lausanne, the President of the IOC spoke the following words:*

*"With your permission, I would like to take a few minutes of your time to draw to your attention and pay respect to a man who has always seen to it that the city of Lausanne remain associated with Olympism.*

*Mr. Jean Pascal Delamuraz, when I was elected President of the International Olympic Committee in 1980, you occupied the post of first Magistrate of Lausanne.*

*At that time, we immediately began discussions in order to reinforce ties with, and bring into closer collaboration, the city of Lausanne and the International Olympic Committee. This Olympic Week, which commences today, is the proof that we have indeed chosen the right path.*

*Mr. Delamuraz, you have since taken up one of the greatest of responsibilities, that of Councillor of State. Nevertheless, I know that being away from Lausanne does not prevent you from looking after the good relations between the International Olympic Committee and your city.*

*I am convinced that the work that has been accomplished has surpassed even your hopes, thanks to the enthusiasm of your successors. But you remain for us the one who permitted this change, as never before.*

*The International Olympic Committee wishes always, as is rightly, to thank those who serve its ideas. Thus, there is one distinction, purely honorary, that our organisation wishes to award you – the Olympic Order – as evidence of our gratitude for your many years of support to the Olympic movement.*

*I must also mention that today, for the first time, we award this Olympic Order in its new form..."*

