

**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.