



Arabian Peninsula tour : 14th-20th March 1982

Continuing his travels to promote Olympism and become acquainted with the sports panorama around the world, the President of the IOC, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, visited several countries on the Arabian Peninsula, meeting with Heads of State, ministers, sports authorities and National Olympic Committee associates. Together with the IOC Executive Board member Prince de Mérode, their first stop was in Kuwait where the newly-elected IOC member for this country, Prince Fahed, joined them for the rest of the journey. They met with the Prime Minister and Heir Apparent before flying to Sanaa, in the Republic of Yemen, where the President of the IOC was introduced to the Head of State Ali Abdullah

Signature taking in Oman to provisionally recognise it as the 150th NOC. From left to right Prince Alexandre de Mérode (IOC, BEL), the President of the IOC, Sheik Fahid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (IOC, KUW). At right are the NOC members, Mohamed Abdul Rasool Al Hay Arab (SG), Abdullah Hamad AL-A'i (PT) and Said Nasser Al Khusaibi, Under Secretary for the Ministry for Youth and Information.

Saleh. They then continued on to Aden, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, at which time Mr. Samaranch had an audience with this country's Chairman of the Council of Ministries, Mr. Ali Nesser Mohammed.

One of the highlights of this trip, his second in the Mid-East, was in Oman, where Mr. Samaranch had lengthy and profitable discussions with sports authorities and officials as well as with the Minister of Information and Youth Affairs, Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Rowas. In view of establishing Oman's National Olympic Committee, he examined their draft statutes, and an agreement was signed that the IOC provisionally recognises Oman with its NOC, the 150th member country of the IOC, with the condition that its final statutes be sent to the IOC, to be approved at the IOC Session in Rome.

The last leg of the IOC President's trip brought him to the United Arab Emirates, where in Abu-Dhabi he attended the opening ceremony of the spectacular Arab Gulf Football Tournament. Before departing to Rome to attend the World Cross-Country Championships on the 20th of March, he had the opportunity to meet the President of the Sultanate, Sheik Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahhan, together with numerous sports and governmental officials of the entire Arab Peninsula.



In Aden, the President of the IOC (left) and Sheik Fahid (right) discussing blue-prints with Mr. Mehdi Abdulla Saced (PT, NOC).

ANOC Headquarters in Paris the 22nd March

Mr. Mario Vazquez Raña, President of the Association of National Olympic Committees and of the Mexican Olympic Committee and Mr. Marian Renke, Secretary General of the ANOC and President of the Polish Olympic Committee, warmly welcomed the President of the IOC, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, accompanied by M^{me} Monique Berlioux, Director, at the inauguration ceremony of the headquarters of the ANOC in Paris, on the 22nd March.

At its location, 21 rue d'Artois, the ceremony was held and speeches were given by Messrs. Samaranch, Vazquez Raña, Claude Collard, the then President of the French National Olympic and Sports Committee, and Mrs. Edwige Avice, French delegated Minister by the Minister of Leisure, in charge of Youth and

Sports The inauguration and the several working sessions held that day and also on the 23rd March, assembled many important figures of the Olympic Movement, as Presidents and Secretary Generals of National Olympic Committees from all over the world

Reports were given by Vice-Presidents and Commissions of the ANOC and ideas were exchanged in an open and constructive manner.

Mr. Vazquez Raña mentioned that in principle two meetings a year will be held at the new headquarters and that the next Executive Board session will be organised in Lausanne this coming October. The General Assembly of the ANOC will take place in Los Angeles in 1983.

Mr. Vazquez Raña also expressed that with this organisation, which joins and represents the 150 member countries, he hopes that this will establish and strengthen the unity and the work of the NOCs.

Asian tour

On route to Pyong-Yang (PRK), Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch made a brief stop-over in Moscow (URS), where he met with Messrs. Vitaly Smirnov, IOC 1st Vice-President, and Constantin Andrianov, IOC member, as well as

Messrs. Serguei Pavlov, President of the USSR Olympic Committee, Alexandre Sereda, its Vice-President and Victor Kotochkin, its Secretary General. They discussed the forms of the USSR's participation in Olympic Solidarity.



In Pyong-Yang, the President of the IOC visits the pool at Health Centre with its Director General.

Pyong-Yang was the first step of a sixteen-day visit to seven Asian Olympic Committees. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch was given audiences by Mr. Lee Jong Ok, Prime Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, by Mr. Den Xiao Ping, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China, by Mr. F. Marcos, President of the Philippines Republic, by Mr. Song Yun Suan, Prime Minister of Taiwan, by His Excellency Chun Doo Hwan, President of the Republic of Korea and by the Emperor of Japan, His Imperial Majesty Hirohito. All of these Heads of State reaffirmed their interests for sport and Olympism. They testified their esteem for the President of the IOC's devotion to the Olympic cause and he was honoured with various decorations. It was in this manner that Mr. Samaranch received the Sports Medal of Merit by Mr. Zhong Shi Tong, President of the Chinese Olympic Committee, in the presence of Mr. Li Meng Hua, Minister of Sports. This is a distinction rarely given to a foreigner.



In Seoul, the President of the IOC was made an honorary citizen and given keys to the city.

Athletes are already ardently preparing for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1964. This is what the President of the IOC markedly noticed while visiting numerous sports facilities. He began with the very modern ones of Pyong-Yang, accompanied by Mr. Yu Sun Kim, IOC member and President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Olympic Committee and its Secretary General, Mr. Chong Jong Ung. Then in Peking he viewed the Physical

Audience with Mr. Deng Xiao Ping in Peking. from left to right, Mr. Li Meng Hua, Minister of Sports, the President of the IOC, Mr. Peng Xiao Ping, VPT of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Masaji Kiyokawa (VPT, IOC, JPN), Mr. Rong Gaotong, Vice-Minister of Sports, Mr. Zhong Shi Tong (PT, NOC), Mr. Alain Coupat (Head of the IOC President's Cabinet) and Mr. Zhenliang He (IOC, CHN).



Reproduction of the cover of the Seoul weekly "Korea Newsreview". The President of the IOC visits the future Olympic sites accompanied by Mr. Yong Chik Kim (PT, OCOG) at right and Mr. Sang Ho Cho (PT, NOC) at left. Mr. Taik Soo Kim (IOC, KOR) is behind him.

Education Institute with Mr. Zhenliang He, IOC member, Mr. Song Zhong, Secretary General of the Chinese Olympic Committee and COC members.

In Hong Kong and Manila it was scheduled to fly over by helicopter various sports developments. Unfortunately this project had to be cancelled in Hong Kong due to bad weather. There, the President of the IOC had several rounds of meetings with Mr. A. de O. Sales, President, Mr. Ramon Young, Secretary General and Mr. Lai Yu-Wing, Assistant Secretary General, all of the Amateur Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong.

In Taipei, in the presence of Mr. Henry Hsu, IOC member, Mr. Shen Chia Ming, President of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee and Mr. Chiana-Sona Shin, Secretary General. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch met up with Don Porter, Secretary General of the International Softball Federation, whom he had previously met with in Hong Kong. They tackled the question of choosing the flags and anthems for the 5th Women's World Softball Championships scheduled for this coming July in Taipei (CTO). The President of the IOC reminded them that his trip had been planned many months in advance and that he did not come there to make a decision on a debate. He confirmed with them what he had already stated at press conferences given in Peking, Manila and Hong Kong : that the International Federations are self-governed. The IOC will only verify that decisions taken be in accordance with the Olympic Charter.



Press conference in Hong Kong. At right is Mr. A. de O. Sales (PT, NOC) and at left is Mr. Masaji Kiyokawa (VPT, IOC, JPN).

A pleasant surprise was in store for Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch in Seoul : the splendid developments of the Jamsil sports complex, south of the capital, where the Olympic Games in 1988 will be staged. Seventy percent of the construction is complete and according to the estimates of the OCOG representatives, everything will be ready before the 6th Asian Games in 1986.

Prime Minister Mr. Chan Yoo, Sports Minister Mr. Roh Tae Woo, IOC member Taik Soo Kim, OCOG President Yong Chik Kim and its Secretary General Won Kyung Lee were very pleased with the IOC President's satisfaction.

In Manila. head of State Mr. Ferdinand Marcos receives the President of the IOC and representatives of the NOC, including Mr. Michael M. Keon (PT) and Mr. Montserat (past PT).

Later, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, in front of Messrs. Yong Su Park, the Mayor of Seoul, Sang Ho Cho and Man-Lip Choy, respectively President and Secretary General of the Korean Olympic Committee, added that 'Seoul has proved that developing countries are just as ready to hold the Olympic Games.'



In Taupe, the President presents the Olympic pennant to Mr. Chia Ming (PT, NOC). At right is Yang Chuan Kwang, silver medalist in the Olympic Decathlon in Rome in 1960.

The discussions that were held along the way with members of various Olympic Committees reinforced their ties with the IOC. This was particularly expressed to Mr. Samaranch by Messrs. Michael M. Keon and Francisco Almeda, the President and the Secretary General of the Philippines Olympic Committee during the inauguration of the Olympic Committee's new headquarters.

The tremendous trip was completed with a brief stop-over in Tokyo (JPN).



Mr. Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister of Japan, and the President of the IOC.

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Mrs. Hideko Hyodo receiving the bronze medal of the Olympic Order in the presence of Mr. Kiyokawa and Dr. Ryotaro Azuma, honorary member of the IOC, who has himself previously been awarded this medal.



The Prime Minister, Mr. Zenko Suzuki, and the Minister of Education, Mr. Eiji Ogawa are delighted that the Olympic Games will be taking place in a neighbouring country and they assured Mr. Samaranch that, if necessary, they will gladly assist their friends from Seoul, from their experience as organisers of previous Olympic Games. The President of the IOC sincerely thanked them after he recalled the great success of the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964 and the Winter Olympic Games in Sapporo in 1972.



During a reception that gathered Dr. R. Azuma, honorary member of the IOC, Mr. Masaji Kiyokawa, 2nd Vice-President of the IOC, Messrs. Katsuji Shibata, Shunichiro Okana, respectively President and Secretary General of the Japanese Olympic Committee, and a great many sports authorities and Japanese Olympic Committee members, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch presented the silver medal of the Olympic Order to Mrs. Hideko Hyodo, Olympic swimming champion in the 200 metre breaststroke in 1936. She has been particularly devoted to Olympism. Before leaving Tokyo, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch specially thanked Mr. Masaji Kiyokawa,

Vice-President of the IOC, who had joined him in Peking and accompanied him throughout his trip.

Mr. Samaranch was moved by the touching friendliness he found in all the countries that he visited. He left the Asian continent to attend the Administration Council of the International Volleyball Federation in Lucerne (SUI). On this occasion Mr. Paul Libaud, founding President, offered the IOC President the gold medal of his federation.

The IOC President, taking no time to even rest, left immediately for Budapest (HUN) where we will begin our next chapter of his presidential activities.

