

Presidential activities

In New Delhi

Perhaps the major event in November for H.E. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, was his visit to New Delhi for the celebration of the 9th Asian Games. Having left Lausanne on the afternoon of 17th November, the President of the IOC arrived in New Delhi during the morning of the 18th. He was Welcomed by Raja Bhalendra Singh and Ashwini Kumar, IOC members in India, Butta Singh, Minister of Sport and President of the Special Organising Committee for the Games, and Mr. Mehta, Secretary General of the Organising Committee of the Asian Games, as well as of the Indian Olympic Association.

In the afternoon of the 18th, following lunch with the Indian IOC members the President addressed the Asian NOCs and members of the Asian Games Federation in a discussion session.

H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch then visited the President of India, Mr. Zail Singh, and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, with whom he discussed various questions regarding the Olympic Movement and the Asian Games.

On the 19th, he met all the IOC members present in New Delhi - first Vice-President Kiyokawa, third Vice-President Siperco, Messrs. Herzog (representative of the IOC for the Regional Games), Wajid Ali, Datuk Hamzah, Yu Sun Kim, Raja Bhalendra Singh, Zhenliang He, Sheikh Fahid, Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya and Henry Hsu. In the course of the day, the President talked with such other personalities as Primo Nebiolo,

H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch receives the key to the athletes' village from the Mayor Mr. H.K.L. Baghat.



President of the IAAF, Sir Roger Bannister, and Ambassador Kim and a delegation from Seoul's Organising Committee, as well as numerous Asian NOCs.

In the afternoon of the 19th, the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Asian Games, as colourful and perfectly organised as any such ceremony, took place under the presidency of Mr. Zail Singh, President of the Republic of India, accompanied by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister. The presence of the President of the IOC was honoured by the raising of the Olympic flag in the new Jawahar Lal Nehru stadium.

Following a press conference on the morning of the 20th, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch visited various sports facilities, including the swimming pool, indoor basketball hall, and the National Stadium which staged the hockey competition and where the first Asian Games were held in 1951. He saw the new indoor stadium, one of the finest in the world, which can stage volleyball and gymnastics at the same time - separated by a sound-proof curtain.

H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch visited the Games Village and took lunch with the athletes in their restaurant. In the afternoon, he saw the exceptional shooting and equestrian venues, and *clearly* all of these facilities now put New Delhi in the very forefront of all the world's cities with regard to major international sports facilities. Minister Butta Singh gave a dinner that evening - for 500 people - and the President and his party left later for an overnight return to Lausanne at the end of a memorable and fruitful visit.

(See page 17, "Asian Games").

In Monaco

Just before leaving for New Delhi, the President had opened a symposium in Monaco, dedicated to the struggle against violence in sport, and the promotion of fair play, and took part in the early discussions. Also taking part were Thomas Keller, President of the GAISF and FISA, and Franco Carraro, President of the AENOC and the CONI.

The symposium was organised jointly by the International Committee for Fair Play, the International Association for Sport without Violence and the International Rika de Backer-von Ocken Foundation. The respective leaders of these organisations - Jean Borotra, M^{me} de

Backer and Jacques Ferran - were of course Present. They accepted an invitation from the President of the IOC to meet with the NOCs of the world in Los Angeles in January 1983, and to contribute to the session of the Olympic Academy in Greece, in June of next year.



The President of the IOC meets Mr. Domenico Bruschi, President of the "Comitato Olimpico Nazionale Sammarinese" on the square of the Government Palace in San Marino.

In Vidy and San Marino

Earlier, in Lausanne, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch had received a delegation from the City of Barcelona, led by the Mayor, Mr. Narcis Serra. The Catalan capital intends to be a candidate city for the Games of the Olympiad of 1992, and during visits to the Château de Vidy and the Olympic Museum and Study Centre, the delegation was given all relevant material and advice with which to follow candidature applications and procedures.



H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch receives the insignia of "Knight, Grand Officer of the Equestrian Order of Saint Agatha" from the two Captains Regent of the Republic of San Marino, Messrs. Libero Barulli and Maurizio Gobbi (left to right).

Included in the delegation were Luis Vilaseca, Director General of sport in Cataluña, Enric Truno, counsellor of sports in Cataluña and Roma Cuyas, director of the initial candidate document, The President of the IOC offered the delegation a dinner, and there was also a formal reception at the Hotel de Ville by the City of Lausanne.

During his official visit to San Marino, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch was presented with the insignia of "Knight, Grand Officer of the Equestrian Order of Saint Agatha", the highest decoration of the Republic. The "Captains Regent" of San Marino, Messrs. Libero Barulli and Maurizio Gobbi, made the presentation.

This presidential visit coincided with the XIIIth General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees for Europe. H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch was thus able to meet the leaders of 33 European NOCs and discuss with them matters of importance and interest to the Olympic Movement (See "Around the NOCs on page 55).

A few days later, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch was once again in Rome (ITA) to attend the first National Sports Conference convened by the CONI. On this occasion the President of the IOC met Mr. Sandro Pertini, President of the Italian Republic, who opened this conference in which all those connected with sport and physical activities took part.

At the end of November, Lucerne welcomed the President of the IOC, who visited the preview of the exhibition of the famous Swiss artist Hans Erni and bought one of the artist's paintings which was inspired by sport (see page 80). H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch then went to Zurich and Lausanne, where he gave two speeches to the members of the Panathlon Clubs of these two cities.



Note: In November 1992, the President's itinerary was Rome - San Marino - Barcelona - Rome - Monaco - New Delhi - Lucerne - Grenoble - Zurich. In comparison with earlier months, this one must have seemed very "calm" to him !