



## Speech by H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch

*President of the IOC*



Your Excellency, Mr. President of the Republic of India, Giani Zail Singh, Honorable Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Your Excellency, Minister of Work, Housing, Sport and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Buta Singh,

Excellencies, Messrs. Ambassadors, Mr. President of the Indian Olympic Association, Raja Bhalendra Singh, Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privileged duty today to speak before such an honorable assembly.

I would like, first of all, Mr. President of the Republic, to offer to you personally, our extreme gratitude for having so kindly accepted to preside over this ceremony.

It is indeed a memorable occasion as this is the first IOC Session ever to be held in this part of Asia. We all know that your presence here today is the recognition of the deep interest which India and its government has shown towards sport since its Independence.

It is extremely rewarding for all of us to see that a large and immense country like India, lays such particular emphasis on sports activities, this proves that governments throughout the world now recognise that the physical fitness of their citizens constitutes an advantage in their struggle for a better life. Moreover, I may add that it is a long term investment, whose benefits are not always immediately perceptible, but for which future generations will be extremely grateful.

The brilliant success and marvellous organisation of the IXth Asian Games last November in New Delhi was unanimously recognised by all. As president of the IOC, I was greatly honoured to be invited to the opening ceremony over which you presided.

The splendid sports installations which I had the opportunity to visit on this occasion, can be counted amongst the best in the world and I was extremely happy to learn that New Delhi is seriously considering the possibility of bidding for the organisation of the Games of the XXVth Olympiad in 1992. Indeed, India would have little to accomplish as far as sports constructions are concerned, as I have seen for myself.

I would now like to speak about our coming Session and the work we will have to achieve.

This 88th Session is of special significance as it is the last session of the XXIIInd Olympiad.



Next year we shall enter the XIIIrd Olympiad of the modern era.

Therefore, I feel that it is necessary to examine briefly the work which has been achieved during these last few years, to adjust our plan of action and to prepare the future of the Olympic movement.

The past four years have been very busy ones for the IOC, and will certainly prove in the future to have marked the beginning of a new era in our history.

In 1980 we were confronted with our greatest challenge since our creation in 1894. But by 1981 with the holding of the extremely successful XIth Olympic Congress in Baden Baden, we have been able to reassert our strength and reinforce our unity and independence.

The links between all the members of our family have been reaffirmed and the closest cooperation assured between all of us ; IOC, IFs and NOCs. For our part, we successfully dealt with such diverse matters as the increased participation of athletes and women in our organisation, the structuring of the National Olympic Committees into five continental organisations, the development and enlargement Of our actions regarding Sports medicine, our increased support and cooperation with non-Olympic Sports Organisations, especially for handicapped persons, the strengthening of the relationship between the Olympic movement and International Organisations such as UNESCO.

Much emphasis should be placed on the Development of the Olympic Solidarity Programme. The budgets have seen a dramatic increase, special aids have been granted both as funds and material and for the first time, the Olympic movement is to pay for the travel and accommodation expenses for some athletes and officials, so that all NOCs can be present at the Games in Los Angeles and Sarajevo. This will enable the greater representation of the developing countries at the Games.

As you can see from this brief report, all the recommendations of the final declaration of the XIth Olympic Congress in Baden Baden have either been fully implemented or at least

initiated. But the most important achievement for me is that we have been able to strengthen our unity and that the IOC is now generally recognised as the leader of all world sport, which accepts the Olympic Ideals. We must therefore prepare ourselves for changes, I said a few moments ago that not only will we have to adjust our plan of action for the next Olympiad, but also to prepare the future of the Olympic movement. Doing this is a major responsibility as our decisions will affect millions of people throughout the five continents

Our immediate duty is to ensure the best possible organisation and success of the Olympic Games next year, first in Sarajevo and then in Los Angeles.

It is in the best interests of the Olympic movement to see as many candidate cities as possible for the Olympic Games in 1992 and we shall all work towards this goal.

Already, we are pleased to see several cities throughout the world studying the possibility of staging the Games. As you know, the choice will be made in 1986.

Also an important task facing us is in fact a long standing problem, which has already led to many heated discussions and brought forward many different proposals: the future conception of the Olympic programme.

It is impossible to mention the Olympic Programme without remembering our great friend and highly esteemed colleague, Arpad Csanadi, whose sudden and tragic death has come as a shock to us all. Arpad Csanadi was known and appreciated throughout the world.

Elected member of the IOC for Hungary in 1964, he soon became very popular among us.

His main responsibility was the Commission for the Olympic Programme over which he had presided since 1968. Technical advisor, then Honorary Sports Director of the IOC since 1981, he was much appreciated by all those who had worked with him throughout the "Olympic World". The entire Olympic movement will miss him, not only as a friend and



companion but also as one of the few people to be aware of all the sports problems existing in the world. I can assure you that I personally shall miss his help very much. As a gesture of mourning and in respect of his memory, I would like to ask you to stand in silence for a few moments.

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Thank you.

Coming back to the Olympic programme, we must concentrate on how to implement the recommendations of the Congress: the future Olympic Games programmes should reflect the modern tendencies in sport.

This will be the main task of the Olympic Programme Commission. However, we should give them the general guidelines. Taking into consideration that the 1992 Games will be awarded in 1986, the New Programme should be ready one year before this. Of no less importance, of course, is the Implementation of Rule 26, the eligibility rule. The IFs have been asked to draw up their own bye-laws and to submit them to the IOC for approval. We have to admit that the situation varies very greatly from one country to another, and the rules we fix should accept this situation, whilst maintaining our unity.

Our principal objectives must be as follows: to enable anyone, apart from the real professionals to take part in the Olympic Games at no disadvantage vis-a-vis other competitors. This also includes the medical aspects of sport.

The fight against doping which the IOC was the first to initiate nearly twenty years ago, has tremendously evolved over the past years. I am happy to report that whilst the IOC is still leading the fight, we have now started a new policy based on "Education". We are confident that this will help all NOCs and athletes to better achieve one of the first principles of the Olympic movement: to promote the development of those physical and moral qualities which are the basis of sport.

Through my numerous journeys and contacts with both governmental authorities at the highest level, and national and international sports officials, I have been able to witness the tremendous interest aroused throughout the world by the Olympic movement. I have always

stressed the major importance for NOCs and Governments to have close and friendly co-operation, but at the same time, I have also pointed out to government authorities that they should respect the full and complete independence and autonomy of the NOCs. Nowadays, the most important need is for dialogue, as it is the only way to overcome our differences and difficulties of any kind. The IOC endeavours to make a bridge between completely different worlds and consequently, between sports organisations of extremely different natures.

I must say that I am particularly happy as President of the International Olympic Committee, which is an international voluntary and non-governmental organisation, to thank you, Mr. President, for having so kindly accepted to have this Session in your country. Thank you also for the generous and warm hospitality shown by all.

May I now ask you, Mr. President of the Republic of India, to officially open the 86th Session of the International Olympic Committee in New Delhi.

