

Presidential Activities

Eleven countries in thirteen days — such was the extraordinary journey made by H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC earlier this year, throughout West Africa. The objectives of this remarkable “safari” were of great importance:

To reinforce relations between the IOC and the NOCs

To meet various sports leaders.

To reinforce relationships between NOCs and their national governments by means of interviews with heads of state.

To present the policies and actions of the IOC.

To obtain the support of governments for the protection of the Olympic Games.

To obtain the ratification by governments of the Treaty of Nairobi and the protection of the Olympic Emblem.

The itinerary of the delegation was as follows:

February

Cameroons

Welcome: Professor René Essomba, IOC member Cameroons.

21/22

Meetings: Mr. Andre Ngongan Ouandji, Minister of Youth and Sports.

Presentation: Mr. Ouandji presented President Samaranch “Merite Camerounais de premiere classe”, highest sporting award in the country in the name of the President of the Republic.



IOC delegation meets the members of the NOC at its headquarters.

To study the possibilities of opening National Olympic Museums in each country.

To establish an overall view of the sports situation in the region.

Included in the Presidential party were H.E. Mr. Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye, then second, now first Vice President of the IOC; Mr. Mario Vazquez Raña, president of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) and president of the Panamerican Sports Organisation (ODEPA) ; Mr. Anani Matthia, president of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ACNOA) and IOC member in Togo, and Mr. Amadou Lamine Ba, secretary general and treasurer of the association.



Mr. Andre Ngongan Ouandji, Professor René Essomba, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch (left to right).

22/23 - Congo

Welcome: Mr. Gabriel Oba Apounou, Minister of sports, Messrs. Raymond Ibata and Jean-Baptiste Longonda, president and secretary-general of the Congo NOC.

Meetings: working session at NOC headquarters.

23/24 - Angola

Welcome: Mr. Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem, vice president, Mr. Matos Fernandes, secretary-general, and Mr. Antonio Couto Cabral, treasurer of Angola NOC.

Meetings: Mr. Rui Mingas, Secretary of State for Physical Education and Sport, and Mr. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic.



Mr. Matos Fernandes, Secretary General/ of the NOC, H. E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch and H.E. Mr. Louis Guirandou N'Diaye.

Zaire: General Boteti Nkokéa Nkanga, H.E. Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch and Mr. Tshobo l'ngana. Commissioner General/ of Sport and Leisure.

24/25 - Zaire

Welcome: General Boteti Nkok'ea, President NOC.

Meetings: Mr. Kengo Wa Dondo, Prime Minister. Mr. Tshobo l'ngana, Commissioner for Sports and Leisure.

25/26 - Gabon

Welcome: Mr. Emmanuel Kingbo, President NOC.

Meetings: Mr. Jean-Baptiste Ngomo-Obiang Minister for Youth, Sport and Leisure.



Emmanuel Kingbo.

left to right: Mr. Mario Vazquez Raña, H.E. M Louis Guirandou N'Diaye, H.E. Mr. Juan Anton Samaranch. Mr. Honorat Wodie, Mr. Ana Matthia and Mr. Amadou Lamine Ba.

27 - Ivory Coast

Welcome: Secretary-General Mr. Honorat Wodie, NOC vice presidents: Messrs M. M. Boniface, Gotta and Koffi Guipro.

Meetings: Mr. Felix Houphouët-Boigny, President of the Republic, and the Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Laurent Dona-Fologo.

Presentations ; President Samaranch received the "Cravate de Commandeur de l'Ordre National de la Côte d'Ivoire".



Visit to the national stadium, Surulere (Lagos, Nigeria). To the right of the President of the IOC, Mr. Alhaji Buba Ahmed. To the left of the President, Sir Adetokunbo Ademola and Mr. Lateef O. Adegbite, President of the NOC. On the far left is Mr. Abraham A. Ordia, Secretary General of the NOC.

27/28 - Nigeria

Welcome: Sir Adetokunbo Ademola, IOC member in Nigeria. Dr. Alex Ekwueme, Vice-President of the Republic, Mr. Alhaji Buba Ahmed, Minister of Sport, and members of the NOC.

Meetings: with the above.



Vice-President of the Republic, Dr. Alex Ekwueme receives H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch. On the right, Mr. Alhaji Buba Ahmed and on the left Mr. Lateef O. Agegbite.



Mr. Fred J. Blay in discussion with the President of the IOC.

March 28/ 1st - Liberia

Welcome: Mr. Fred. J. Blay, Minister for Youth and Sport and President of the NOC. Mr. Marcel Bertin, secretary general, and Mr. Waka, vice-president.

Meetings: Minister of State at the Presidency, Mr. Harry Nayou, and Mr. Blay.



During the lunch offered by Mr. Ahmed Sekou Touré to the President of the IOC at the Presidential Palace.

1st/2 - Guinea

Welcome: President of the NOC, and Commissioner General for Youth.

Meetings: Mr. Ahmed Sekou Touré, President of the Republic, Mr. Beavogui Lansana, Prime Minister, and Mr. Sekou Cissoko, President NOC.

2/3 - Gambia

Welcome: Messrs. Omar B. Sey and Babou-carr Sarr, president and secretary general respectively of the NOC, and the Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, Mr. Alhaji A. A. Njie.

Meetings: Mr. B. B. Darbo, Vice President of the government.



During a dinner given by the NOC, President Samaranch presented to Mr. Sey, NOC president, an Olympic Nag to commemorate the fact that Gambia was the 100th NOC he has visited during his presidency.

3/4 - Senegal

Welcome: Mr. François Bob, Secretary of State for the Minister of Youth and Sports, and Dr. Iba Mar Diop, President of the NOC.

Meetings: Mr. Habib Thiam, Prime Minister, during which President Samaranch presented him with the Olympic Order.

Presentations: President Samaranch was awarded by Mr. Thiam the highest honorary distinction of Senegal, "Commander of the National Order of the Lion". President Samaranch, at NOC headquarters, presented Mr. Henri Joseph Diomé with the gold medal of the "Olympic Order".



Mr. Henri Joseph Diomé receives the silver medal of the Olympic Order.



The President of the IOC has just presented the silver medal of the Olympic Order to Mr. Habib Thiam.

Conclusions:

This extensive tour, concluded on March 5, served above all to reinforce the authority of the IOC in these African countries, as well as that of ACNOA. The IOC considers in fact that wherever possible solutions to the problems of the African nations should be found through their confederation ACNOA. All of the NOCs have welcomed the decentralisation which has been begun by Olympic Solidarity. All of the nations are anxious to compete in the Games of Los Angeles in 1984, but are concerned about costs. All seemed in accord with the protection of the Olympic emblem and to recognise the rights of the IOC in this respect, and in general all the chiefs of state seemed prepared to support a declaration for the protection of the Olympic Games.

President Samaranch proposes to make other extensive visits to African countries before the end of 1984.



From left to right: Messrs. Ydnekatchew Tessema, Amadou Lamine Ba, Sharad Chandra Shaha, Anani Matthia, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, Sheikh Fahid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Messrs. Hatty Shaker, Gaochung and Bashir Attarabulsi.

Kuwait

En route to the 86th Session of the IOC, President Samaranch attended the first meeting between the Olympic Council of Asia, and the Association of NOCs of Africa, and was welcomed by Sheik Fahid Al-Ahmad'Al-Sabah, IOC member in Kuwait and President of OCA, and Mr. Bashir M. Attarabulsi, IOC member in Libya.



During his visit, President Samaranch inaugurated the first Pakistanese sports paintings exhibition at the Alhamra Art Council, organised on the initiative of Mr. Syed Wajid Ali.

The President was a witness to the accord made between the two organisations and of the creation of the Afro-Asian Games which will take place for the first time in New Delhi. He took part in a programme of discussions with various parties and various IOC members, including Mr. Anani Matthia, president of ANOCA and IOC member in Togo and Messrs. Essomba, Staubo, Rieckehoff and Keita.

The President had meetings with H.H. Sheik Saad Al Abdalla Al Sabah, heir apparent and Prime Minister, who presented him with the medal of honour during the celebrations of the third Olympic Day.

Pakistan

Following the 86th Session of the IOC, President Samaranch made an official visit to Pakistan. He was welcomed by Syed Wajid Ali IOC member in Pakistan. The President visited both Lahore and Islamabad, had meetings with Foreign Minister Sahibzada Yaqub Khan and Federal Sports and Culture Minister Mr. Niaz Mohammad Arbab, then went to Rawalpindi to call upon President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.