

Geoffrey Miller Olympism's Advocate

H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch,

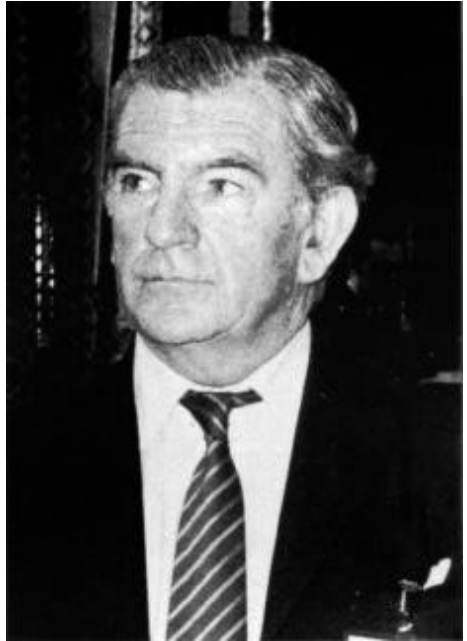
IOC President, gave the funeral speech for Geoffrey Miller during a short service held in his memory at the Skenderila Press Centre on 18th February, the day after his death

During this time of intense celebration of these Winter Games one of us has passed on, in the midst of his efforts he has been struck down. (All recognised this brief shadow which haunted the stadia, all of us were happy to see his face so full of life.) Geoffrey Miller is no more.

Since 1968 he was part of our Olympic family. Few people knew how active he was within the Press Commission because he knew how to soften, suppress and avoid the obstacles which arose between Olympism and the media world. As an old hand in this field which fascinated him, he was always there to give advice. We shall keep in our memory his experience as a man who knows how to see and how to remember through his book "Behind the Olympic Games".

He came to sport in 1959 through his agency "Associated Press". He knew all its aspects, he was the expert, the modest specialist, always in search of new talents and future champions. He wrote ceaselessly, the sobriety of his style, with a tone that always fitted the particular occasion, we all appreciated him. This was the intense reflection of his honesty and his intelligence.

Geoffrey Miller loved sport, but his favourite team remained without doubt the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, from his home town in Great Britain. Indeed Geoffrey Miller knew how to separate his interests and was also a great lover of music. A true gentleman, this is why we all loved him. We are all deeply



moved by his death, for he was one of these few men of character indispensable to the promotion of the Olympic movement.

With him, we have just lost the voice of a great champion of our cause. Now we must express our deepest sympathy to his wife and children but also to his friends in Associated Press.

Juan Antonio Samaranch