



In just a few days time, the Olympic Flame will be lit in Sarajevo, marking the beginning of the XIVth Olympic Winter Games. When it is extinguished eleven days later, it will indicate both the end of one era and the beginning of another. This situation seems to me to symbolise perfectly what the modern Olympic Movement intends for the future of the Olympic Winter Games.

The International Olympic Committee, on the occasion of its Session in *Rome* in 1982, adopted a new definition for the Olympic Winter Games. I quote :

"Sports which are practiced on snow or ice are considered winter sports".

Contrary to the idea which was widely spread a few years ago, the Winter Games are not about to be discontinued. The IOC intends to make them more brilliant and more important. It seems to us, in fact, that it would treat an unacceptable inequality to arbitrarily exclude millions of athletes and sincere supporters of the Olympic ideals throughout the world. Far from condemning the Games because they are out of date or unrealistic, the International Olympic Committee intends, on the contrary, to make them an instrument of a policy to promote the development of winter sports in mountainous regions.

Thus, while contributing to the development of the Olympic principles which aim for the practice of sport by all, we are also participating to a large extent in the improvement of the economic situation in the regions concerned. By doing so, we are convinced that we are heading in the right direction.

However, the Olympic Games are only one of the many responsibilities of the Olympic Movement. Our tasks are very different in nature and include many fields which even our founder, the Baron Pierre de Coubertin, could not have foreseen. The world in which we are living in 1984 has not a great deal in common with the one in which he lived.

It is surprising to note that amidst all the changes which have taken place in many domains during the last half century, our

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Mr. Delegate of the Presidency of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia ;
Mr. President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina ;
Mr. President of the Assembly of the City of Sarajevo ;
Mr. President of the Organising Committee ;
Mr. President of the Executive Committee of the Organising Committee, Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, Mr. Presidents of the International Olympic Winter Sports Federations, Ladies and Gentlemen.



Olympic Charter, although undergoing many textual modifications, has remained basically identical to the document drawn up by our founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

The Olympic Movement belongs, in fact, to the world in which it evolves, It is inseparable and thus cannot escape the consequences of all the upheavals which we know.

It had thus become urgent for the Olympic Movement to proceed not with the remodelling of its objectives or aims, which will remain as those fixed by Coubertin, but more with a restructuring of its rules, bylaws and recommendations. Finally, it is advisable that we should possess a working instrument which is clear, practical, precise and up-to-date. In doing so we must, however, take care to preserve the necessary flexibility and open-mindedness which will allow those who will take over from us to continue our work without being bound by too rigid regulations.

We must thus direct our work towards two complementary fields : the clarification of our present rules and the adaptation of our Charter to the new trends which the Olympic Movement has now adopted in order to better fulfill its aspirations and aims as set out by its founder.

By this I mean the new undertaking of the IOC for a closer and deeper relationship between sport and art; sport and culture; sport and science ; and sport and education.

By this I mean more particularly the unre-served support which we have begun to give to popular sport, to sport for all, to sport for and by the disabled, to sport as practiced by everyone, an asset for good health ; balance, self-confidence, a better comprehension of others ; in brief, fraternity and peace.

One of the best examples which I can give is one which you will all witness in a few days' time on the slopes of Jahorina. Amongst the Olympic athletes, approximately thirty young men and women, more or less seriously handicapped, will take part for the first time in Olympic history in a slalom event which has been organised for them. The same thing will happen in Los Angeles, where a wheelchair race will take place in the Olympic Stadium during the athletics events of the Games.

It is the duty of the IOC to offer its assistance, experience, support and prestige to all those who share the Olympic ideals whenever they may need them. Our aim is to promote the general development of all sports activities. Sport, in fact, plays a role of increasing importance in our modern society. It constitutes a part of our daily life : we ski, we run, we swim, we play tennis. Even windsurfing has become popular on even the smallest stretch of water. Free-form or aerobic gymnastics, jogging, and fun-runs are developing throughout the world at a very rapid pace. The age-old benefits of using physical activity to fight against the illnesses of our modern civilisation are being rediscovered by every-one.

In this respect, I should like to stress that our action is inseparable from that of the other two pillars of the Olympic Movement: the International Sports Federations on the one hand and the National Olympic Committees on the other.

We must agree that the most difficult and perhaps the most delicate tasks are carried out by the above organisations : the training of the athletes, their selection, the training of judges and referees, and the spreading of the Olympic sports' ideals on the sports field itself.



We are very pleased to underline the good relationship and collaboration which we enjoy with the International Sports Federations, with the National Olympic Committees, as well as with the associations under which they are grouped. The friendly, close and positive relationship which we have with them has enabled us to secure the strong links between us, to better understand our specific needs, and to try and give those who need it, at least a little of the help which they expect to receive from us. It is thus of the utmost importance that we envisage, more adequate methods further reinforcing the links between the IOC, the IFS and the NOC's in the future. The assistance which the developing countries expect to receive from us can have many forms, but it is essentially of two natures: material and human.

While we can hope that the material assistance, if everything goes well, will increase so that we are able, in a few years'time, to fully cover all the expenses for the participation of the NOC's in the Olympic Games, the human assistance is, on the contrary, dependent on more complex factors, which we absolutely have to master in a better fashion. It is perhaps here that the unity which we have preserved and reinforced on the occasion of the XIth Olympic Congress in Baden Baden and continuously consolidated since then, can be of assistance to us. It is only by grouping all the human resources of our Movement and by rationalising their use that we will be able to confront the many requests which are multiplying in this domain. This is why, from this tribune. I would strongly and honestly like to appeal to all of those concerned :

It is now high time for us to gather around one same table and work out a new and really efficient programme of assistance. The IOC for its part is totally in favour of such an initiative and is ready to collaborate frankly and without reserve in a program which, thus elaborated, would at last reply to the crying needs of many countries. Towards the end of this century, when sports constitute the largest social force of our time, the IOC will not fail to carry out its duty. It will endeavour even more fervently to

fulfil its mission as entrusted to it by the XIth Olympic Congress in Baden Baden : to be the leader of all those who accept and share the Olympic ideals. Thus, several months before the celebration in Paris of the 90th anniversary of our organisation, on the very site of its creation, I think I can say that the International Olympic Committee has never been more powerful, united and respected. During the course of these 90 years, we have shown to the world that a private and benevolent organisation can develop for the benefit of the human ideals of generosity, friendship, comprehension, and understanding, and can resist all the threats and crises which the world has known during this period.

Working in the sole interest of mankind, regardless of colour, race, religion or political opinions. We have very often been able to achieve the impossible.

While we are quite justifiably a little proud, our successes are increasing along with our responsibility towards the aims which I recalled earlier on.

Since its creation, the Olympic Movement has fought for peace. All its actions prove to everyone that collaboration, comprehension, and friendship - in brief, peace - is possible between all nations of the world.

This is why I would now like to pay a very special homage to our hosts today for having brilliantly demonstrated this fact once again.

The whole of Yugoslavia has made a huge effort to receive the quadrennial gathering of the youth of the world with dignity.

Everyone, politicians, sports leaders, young and old from all of the constituent Republics, has been totally devoted to ensuring the success of the XIVth Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo, with the deepest respect and love of the Olympic principles.

In the name of everyone present, as well as in the name of those who are going to take part in these friendly contests, I should like to express to the Delegate of the Presidency of the Republic, our deepest gratitude for the admirable work carried out by your country and



I should be grateful if you would tell all your fellow citizens of our emotion before the warm welcome which has been extended to us.

With your permission, Mr. Delegate of the Presidency, I should particularly like to thank and congratulate all the officials of the Organising Committee of the XIVth Olympic Winter Games and in person, its President, Mr. Branko Mikulic, the President of the Executive Committee, Mr. Anto Sucic, the Secretary General Mr. Ahmed Karabegovic and the Technical Director, my old friend, Arthur Takac. Throughout the long years of preparation, we have learnt to know each other well and to hold each other in esteem, and we have become real friends. This is one of the miracles of our Movement which creates such opportunities for similar friendships at all levels.

I should also like to add to this homage the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and all the inhabitants of Sarajevo whose true Olym-

pic spirit has amazed us many times over the past years.

Already the immense success of the XIVth Olympic Winter Games, with a record participation of 49 National Olympic Committees, constitutes the most wonderful reward of all these efforts. I am, moreover, convinced, and with me all those who have already been able to admire the magnificent sports installations which have been created, that these will constitute a remarkable asset for the future development and economic affluence of this region.

Once again, from the bottom of my heart, I address sincere thanks to everyone.

And now, Mr. Delegate of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, I have the honour of asking you to officially open the 87th Session of the International Olympic Committee in Sarajevo.

J. A. S.