

# PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES

## Games for the Handicapped at Innsbruck



The Winter Season well and truly began with the arrival of mid-January. The snow, which fell a little later than usual, was on time in Innsbruck where H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC President attended the 13th, 14th and 15th January.

These games which gathered together a total of five hundred athletes from twenty two nations can do nothing but encourage the practice of winter sports by disabled people, as well as facilitate their integration into a more caring society. They fit quite naturally into the Olympic concept of the development of sport for all, at all levels. This is why President Samaranch was eager to be present at these events, placed for the first time under IOC patronage. This was the theme he gave to the speech made during the opening ceremony, stating most particularly :

*"This is only a first step. In a few weeks time, during the XIVth Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo, the first event ever organised for the disabled will take place. I am confident that this will help people everywhere to realise that everyone has the right to practise sport.*

*It is our duty to offer all those who accept the Olympic ideals, the assistance, experience and backing of the International Olympic Committee, whenever they may require it. I can assure you that our aim is to help in the general development of sport of all kinds. "*

Taking advantage of his stay in Austria, during which he was received by the President of the Republic, Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger, Presi-

dent Samaranch took part in a working session with the National Olympic Committee, chaired by Mr. Kurt Helter, and he had the pleasure of awarding the silver Olympic Order to two faithful supporters of the Movement. Mr. Edgar Fried who, after twenty six years in the service of the Austrian NOC, is now its Honorary Secretary General, and Dr. Alois Lugger, former Mayor of Innsbruck, without whom the 1964 and 1976 Winter Games would no doubt not have proved so successful. These decorations are in recognition of untiring service, but above all of an enthusiastic attitude towards the promotion of the Olympic Idea.