
Greetings of the President



1986 Once again, a year of decision is before us. Next October, the Games of the XXVth Olympiad and the XVIth Winter Games will link their destinies with two new Olympic cities.

The choice will not be an easy one. Fourteen cities have decided to present candidatures and their plans are rich in ideas for a glorious celebration of sport in Olympism in the year 1992. The enthusiasm of these numerous bids, full of promise for the future of our Movement, is naturally pleasing to us. I wish us to make our choice with resolution and far-sightedness, in the light of full information on the possibilities and advantages of each of the candidate cities, provided by the painstaking efforts of the "Study and evaluation commissions for the preparation of the Olympic Games" set up by the IOC, IFs and the NOCs.

The popularity of Olympism, which is undergoing a constant expansion throughout the world, would not be of great significance if it were not carried forward in each country by the in-depth action of each of the 161 NOCs which are a part of our Movement. Athletes do not become champions overnight. Their performances depend on training structures, a profusion of local and regional competitions and adequate sports facilities to accommodate them.

The main aim of the International Olympic Committee is, with the aid of Olympic Solidarity, to foster constantly the cultivation of sport and to provide it with a solid and high-quality framework.

As I was able to observe during my recent travels in Asia and Africa, progress is under way. To all those who are working with devotion to further this development, I address my warmest wishes for success.

Let us embark with confidence on this new year, since each of us can count on the cohesion of our great, Olympic family, but do not let us forget that it is because we are united and strong that we shall be able to accomplish our most noble objective : to serve the ideals of the youth of the world.



*Juan Antonio Samaranch
President of the IOC*