

### A FRUITFUL ENCOUNTER

**O**n 7th December 1985, representatives of the seven cities wishing to host the Games of the XXVth Olympiad in 1992 and the seven bidding for the XVIth Olympic Winter Games in the same year met with the IOC Executive Board in Lausanne where, in less than one year, the final decisions will be made as to who will organise these events.

To begin the meeting, Mr. Paul-René Martin, Mayor of Lausanne, and the IOC President, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, welcomed the participants assembled in the crowded room. The business of the day then began with an explanation of the election procedure to be used next October at the 91st Session of the IOC, followed by a detailed review of the contract between the IOC and the Organising Committee which will be signed immediately after the voting on 17th October.

Mr. Richard Pound, member of the IOC Executive Board and himself a lawyer, deftly guided the group through the lengthy, but extremely important document, item by item, and answered their many questions to ensure optimal understanding of the various stipulations.

Items relating to the more specific concerns of marketing and media were also explored during the course of the day through a presentation of the TOP programme with a video and an outline of the minimum requirements for radio and television coverage.

Medical matters, in particular doping control, were discussed by Prince Alexandre de Merode, member of the Executive Board and Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission.

With regards to the cultural programme, which is to be an integral part of the Games, the participants were reminded that they are to provide three types of events : international, national and for the athletes.

Mr. Marc Hodler, member of the Executive Board and President of the Association of Winter IFs, Mr. Primo Nebiolo, President of the Association of Summer Olympic IFs, and Mr. Richard Palmer, Coordinator of the ANOC commission of enquiry, were also on hand to provide basic information on how each organization was conducting its visits to each city. All three have

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already begun their inspections, as has the IOC commission of enquiry.

At mid-day, a reception was held around a beautiful Christmas tree decorated with the Olympic rings and the names of the fourteen cities. President Samaranch presented each delegation with a gift in the spirit of the holiday season. In his closing words, at the end of the afternoon session, Mr. Samaranch reminded the participants that the IOC was ready to help them at any moment. *"We are really partners", he said, "we must be friends. This is the beginning of another chapter in Olympic history".*