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## ADOPTION OF THE ELIGIBILITY COMMISSION'S REPORT

The press conference then moved on to other subjects dealt with by the Executive Board during its two days of meetings.

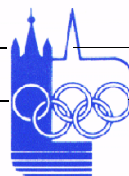
The IOC President announced that the report presented by Mr. Willi Daume, IOC member in the FRG, on behalf of the Eligibility Commission, of which he is Chairman, had been unanimously approved by the Executive Board.

This report, as you know, demonstrates the obsolete nature of Rule 26 of the "Olympic Charter", which governs the eligibility of athletes for the Games. The distinction *strictu sensu* between the amateur and the professional athlete being satisfactory to no one, the NOCs at their General Assembly in Mexico City in 1984 asked that this rule should be recast. "We have examined", said Chairman Daume *"what has happened at Olympic football tournaments and we are in agreement that the one in Los Angeles in 1984 was of the highest standard and met with the greatest success. As regards tennis, contracts binding the players will have to be suspended for the duration of the Games. Finally, for ice hockey, we do not wish to run into last-minute difficulties regarding the composition of the teams as was the case in Sarajevo in 1984."*

The establishment of a mandatory moral code has therefore become a necessity. The athlete's code, which was presented in our February issue by one of its authors, Colonel Raoul Mollet, is more binding for the athlete, who is obliged to subscribe to it in order to participate in the Games, and at the same time, accessible to all athletes, whatever the type of their financial support before and after the Games. The main outlines of this code are as follows :

- respect of the Olympic rules and those of the International Federations as the basis of selection of athletes by the national federations and the NOCs;
- respect of the rules of fair play ;
- submission to medical and anti-doping checks ;
- respect of the rules adopted by the IOC concerning advertising ;
- refusal of any financial recompense related to participation in or victory at the Games.

President Samaranch explained : *"In this way, the athletes will have to accept that at the Olympic*



*Games, the medals are the winners' only rewards. If they refuse the principle, they are free to refrain from participating. At the Games, there are gold, silver and bronze to be won, nothing else."* The Games remain a non-commercial sports event and they will continue to take place free of any advertising.

This athlete's code is expected to be submitted for approval to one of the forthcoming IOC sessions, perhaps as soon as the 91st Session to be held in Lausanne in October 1986. At the present time, the draft is being studied by the National Olympic Committees, and the great majority of their reactions so far have been positive.



*President Samaranch and Mr. Willi Daume, after the latter's presentation of the report of the Eligibility Commission.*