



### **GREAT FIGURES IN SPORT: FRANCO CARRARO**

President of the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) since 1978 and of the Association of European NOCs since 1980, Mr. Franco Carraro, 56, possesses a record of leadership in sport that reflects tremendous, almost superhuman, dedication and energy. Elected member of the IOC in 1982, he presently serves as Vice-Chairman of the Commission for the Programme and sits on the Eligibility Commission. In his capacity as Vice-President for Europe of the Association of NOCs (ANOC), he is a member of the IOC Commissions for the Olympic Movement and for Olympic Solidarity. Space does not permit mention of his many administrative duties with regard to water-skiing, in which he used to compete, and football, nor of his "professional" life as a businessman. We caught Mr. Carraro for just a few moments while he was in Lisbon last October for the IOC-ANOC meetings.

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**Olympic Review :** *Mr. Carraro, what do you see as the greatest problems in Europe concerning the development and promotion of sport ?*

**Franc Carraro :** Sport is already quite developed in Europe. The problem is that some countries do not have very much money and the cost of preparing athletes for the Olympic Games is high and going up. People think that Europe is developed and rich, but this is not always the case.

Another problem we have in Europe is that there is not enough sport in the schools.

**O. R. :** *The continent of Europe is very large and diverse. As the President of the Continental Association, how do you approach the differences in the needs of the member countries ?*

**F. C. :** Europe is a difficult continent because the way of considering sport differs from one country to another. You have the Western countries with one concept of how sport should be organised and the Eastern countries with another. If we can resolve these differences in Europe, we can solve the problems of sport all over the world. The mutual spirit of friendship and collaboration certainly facilitates the dialogue between the National Olympic Committees.

**O. R. :** *As a member of both the ANOC Executive Council and the IOC, how do you view your role, particularly with regard to the coordination and enhancement of the two organizations ?*

**F. C. :** My work in the IOC helps me in the Continental Association because relationships must be very close throughout the entire Olympic Movement. As you know, now all five continental Vice-Presidents are also members of the IOC.

**O. R. :** *For the European NOCs and the Continental Association as a whole, in what areas would you like to see more assistance and cooperation from Olympic Solidarity ?*

**F. C. :** Olympic Solidarity must work in two directions : The first is to help less-developed NOCs all over the world — some are in Europe — to improve attitudes towards sport. Secondly, they should help the NOCs bring athletes to the Olympic Games.

**O. R. :** *Compare the situation in Europe today with that of about five years ago. Where do you see the greatest changes between then and now ?*

**F. C. :** There are no big changes. There was some development, yes, but as the standard is already high, I don't think there was a revolution. But

there was progress. The progress, though, is not as noticeable as in other, less-developed countries because we are now just taking small steps.

**O. R. :** *What is your outlook for the next five years ?*

**F. C. :** The same.

**O. R. :** *Finally, Mr. Carraro, what to you is most important right now to the Olympic Movement ?*

**F. C. :** My personal dream is for everyone in the world, and especially the politicians, to understand that sport leads to unity and friendship of young people — that it is a great contribution to peace. I hope that in the future, the Olympic Games can again be a demonstration of unity of people everywhere and not as they were in the past Games, an occasion to underline the political division in the world.

*Interview conducted by Robin Stratton*

