

### SPORTS LEADERS OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN CONFERENCE

**T**he 35th Annual Conference of Sports Leaders of Socialist Countries was held in Berlin (GDR) on 18th October 1986. Nineteen countries, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (PRK), were represented at this meeting, to which the IOC President was invited, as he had been the previous year. The participants expressed themselves in favour of the proposal by the NOC of the PRK, which calls for the organisation of the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad on both sides of the border between the two Korean Republics.

On the occasion of this trip to Berlin, President Samaranch spoke with Mr. Erich Honecker, Secretary General of the Socialist Unity Party of the CDR. Mr. Honecker declared that the teams of the socialist countries were preparing actively for the Games of 1988. Moreover, the general atmosphere of the conference indicated a genuine willingness on the part of the countries represented to go to the Games, to the great satisfaction of the IOC President. An interview given by Mr. Gabor Deak, Hungarian Minister of Youth and Sport and President of the NOC, to the magazine "Newsport" during the period of the meeting confirms this attitude. Mr. Deak states that "*The Communist states will do all they can to help the Olympic Movement overcome the crisis*".

Cuba's decision to accept the organisation of the Panamerican Games, offered to Havana for 1991, was also much commented on. The IOC President declared that he was very happy. "It is very good news for the Olympic-Movement", he said. You may recall that President Samaranch visited an Olympic Solidarity course last October in Moscow, where he had very cordial and positive discussions with the Soviet sports leaders.

The agenda for the meeting in Berlin was not limited to the adoption of a position on the Games. Many subjects were dealt with in constructive discussions : problems of cooperation and solidarity between countries in matters of sport, training exchanges and bursaries for students from countries in need of sustained assistance for the development of their sports activities.

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