
PARACHUTES AND FLAGS

Each opening ceremony has its particular touches of exoticism and sensation, and the SLOOC fully intends to uphold this now well established tradition on 17th September next year. After the flying man in Los Angeles, it is the Olympic rings which will be alighting on the grass of the stadium in Seoul, forming the last tableau in a series of figures executed by a hundred parachutists from twenty-five countries including China, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. Also on the programme is a great parade of flags which will be formed in the air before landing in the centre of the stadium in a huge bouquet of coloured parachutes, all nations together.

The symbolism of the flags takes on its full force in the course of the Games. Even though they are entered individually, the athletes form part of their national delegations, which are asked to send the national anthems and emblems they hope to see and hear during the medal ceremonies. The SLOOC has announced that twenty-one countries have already done so. The Organising Committee has already placed an order with Etablissements Doublet for three hundred and twenty flags. This French textile company is the only one in the world able to manufacture in one hour a flag of any size bearing any emblem whatsoever.