



## BARCELONA UP IN FRONT



*The COOB'92 delegation presenting its report in front of the Session.*

COOB'92, one year old on 12th March 1988, presented its second report to the IOC Session on 11th February.

**A** consortium run like a private company with the benefits of both public and private sectors, the COOB'92 is in the process of finalizing financial arrangements for the Games, preparing to sign the Olympic TOP programme and holding discussions over state funding with the Spanish government, which has already approved a tax exemption scheme.

To turn to the sports themselves, the majority of installations are well under way and will be re-examined by the IOC Liaison Commission at the beginning of April 1988. In addition to the stadium due for completion this year, the Sports Palace will be complete by the end of 1989.

Two venues were still to be decided at the Session in Istanbul. In Calgary the announcement was made that yachting competitions will take place in the port of Barcelona itself, instead of Palma de Majorca, giving the yachtsmen who are usually obliged to live far out from the hub of Olympic activity a rare chance to live in the main Athletes Village. Hockey events have been assigned to the town of Terrasa, a town thirty miles away from Barcelona which staged the first World Cup in 1971 and which has a strong tradition of this sport.

Within the broad outlines of the Olympic project, detailed lines are beginning to emerge : planning procedure is already diversifying into specialized areas. Mr. Manuel Romero, of the European Broadcasting Union, has been placed in charge of the Organizing Committee's Press and Television Commission. The COOB will intensify consultations with this, together with the Athletes, Cultural and Medical Commissions and the various International Federations, in the coming months.

An essential element in Barcelona's public image was revealed to the press on 16th March, its new mascot. Given an enthusiastic reception by professionals in design for making a clean break with all the previous Disney-inspired figures, it is an loosely-outlined dog with semi-human body and a head seen simultaneously full-face and in profile. Created by the Valencian cartoonist Javier Mariscal, its amorphous shape will be worked into a variety of different images of the 1992 Games, some combined with the Miro-inspired logo created by Josep Maria Trias for the city's candidacy, readopted with minor reworking. According to a COOB delegate, it shows that *"Catalonia and Barcelona are in the avant-garde of the avant-garde. Barcelona is always up in front"*.

