



The representatives of the International Summer Sports Federations headed by Mr. Primo Mebiolo, IAAF President, and the IOC Executive Board at their session in Lausanne.

DOPING : STANDARDIZING SANCTIONS

The IOC Executive Board met on 24th and 25th April in Lausanne, and then on 27th and 28th in Stockholm on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Swedish Olympic Committee. To start with, as it does every year at this time, the Board met representatives of the International Federations governing summer sports.

The discussions centred on the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad which are now rapidly approaching. The installations have long been ready to welcome the athletes and the competitions. The Olympic swimming pool, which has just been completed, will shortly be inaugurated by President Samaranch, who will be making his final visit to the Olympic city before setting up his autumn base there at the beginning of September.

One item on the Executive Board's agenda was the anti-doping campaign. In the same spirit

as his speech in Calgary last February, the IOC President once again exhorted all the federations to adopt uniform controls and sanctions against doping for their own competitions.

According to Prince Alexandre de Merode, President of the IOC Medical Commission, all federations have virtually accepted the list of substances prohibited by the IOC, but action must be stepped up. That is why, he explained, it has become indispensable that the federations use the same code of sanctions as that drawn up by the IOC. These sanctions tend more to protect

athletes as they distinguish between inadvertent or accidental use of a drug and deliberate usage, but it must be possible to take more punitive action against those persons, whether coaches, administrators or doctors, involved in cases of doping, provided that guilt is clearly established. In addition, the Medical Commission, which would like to see checks made outside competitions during training, is also studying the possibility of banning from the Games any athlete convicted of doping during an Olympic competition. At present, an athlete caught doing this is expelled from the Games, but may be admitted to the following Games by his or her federation.

The 21 laboratories accredited by the IOC have received, in the form of a code of ethic, the recommendations from the Medical Commission as well as the procedure for passing on the results of its analyses.

The results for 1987 look to be satisfactory: 37,882 samples were analysed and 854, or 2.25%, were declared positive. This proportion increases to 7%, however, for checks carried out before major competitions. Commenting on the results, the Prince de Merode congratulated the laboratories, while stressing that even though there was not a large number of positive cases, it was still too many. That was why, President Samaranch stressed, "it is still very much our concern to continue our fight against doping, which endangers the athlete and is the worst form of cheating." In any case, in Seoul the controls will be "stricter than ever," explained the President.