

# ATHLETES SPEAK OUT

The meeting which the Athletes' Commission had with the IOC Executive Board last December in Vienna gave its members the opportunity to air some of the points of view which athletes in general feel to be particularly important. To lend even more strength to the firm position adopted by the athletes towards doping, we are publishing the "Seoul Declaration", signed by the athletes on 27th September 1988 at an assembly held after several doping cases had been discovered during the Olympic competitions.



This declaration is of historic significance, showing both the determination of the athletes to oppose doping and their awareness of its many dangers. It shows firm backing for the position of the IOC and unreserved support for the International Olympic Charter against Doping in Sport, recently approved by the IInd Sports Ministers Conference. It is both necessary and natural that this declaration should be given as wide an audience as possible, which is why the *Olympic Review* is reprinting it here.

## THE SEOUL DECLARATION

Olympic athletes gathered in a meeting on the 27th of September, 1988 in the Seoul Olympic Village hereby declare:

We acknowledge with great disappointment the doping cases during the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

The athletes and officials involved have not only broken the rules, risked their own health, but have also damaged the image of all athletes competing in the real spirit of fair play.

Therefore, we strongly support the position taken on doping by the IOC Athletes' Commission since 1981, and appreciate the firm statements made by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch on this issue.

We share the ideals laid down in the Olympic Anti-Doping Charter and urge all partners in sport throughout the world to implement this programme.

In conclusion, we confirm our main position:

1. We call for the establishment of unannounced random testing for athletes in training and competition on an international basis.
2. We call for a full inquiry of each doping case, to review the involvement of all concerned, including the athlete, coach, and administrators, and call for severe punishment for those found guilty.
3. We call for more education for athletes, coaches, and administrators, to teach the dangers of performance-enhancing drugs and thus to prevent future doping infractions.