

## VISIT TO NORWAY

Since Lillehammer was chosen as the site of the XVIIth Olympic Winter Games, Norway has become a frequent destination for the IOC. Between 4th and 7th March last, the IOC President, accompanied by Mr. Marc Hodler, President of the Association of International Winter Sports Federations (AIWSF) and of the FIS, travelled there to attend the annual ski festival at Holmenkollen. Messrs. Jan Staubo, IOC Member in Norway, and Jan Gulbrandsen, NOC President, were also part of the delegation present at this ski jumping event

*Relaxed atmosphere during the speech of Mr. Arne Mollen, new holder of the Olympic Order. left. Mrs. Gro Harlem Bkuntland; right, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch.*



which counted as one of the World Cup competitions. As always, the occasion was witnessed by a huge crowd of spectators.

On the following day, the President travelled to Lillehammer where he visited the different sites which will become the various competition venues. The visit, which followed a working meeting, was led by Mr. Ole Sjetne, the OCOG Chairman, and his staff. The IOC President concluded his trip with a visit to Oslo where he was received by the Norwegian Prime Minister, Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland. During a dinner attended by leading figures from the Norwegian sports world, the IOC President awarded the Olympic Order to Mr. Arne Mollen, President of the Norwegian NOC for many years (1969-1985) following a long career as a sports leader. After setting up an athletics club with some friends at the age of only 14, Mr. Mollen, who was a talented athlete, rapidly increased his responsibilities, firstly within the national athletics team and subsequently as President of the Norwegian Athletics Federation. In this capacity he joined the board of the Norwegian Sports Federation and on several occasions headed his country's delegations to the Olympic Games and numerous international competitions. All in all, a career inextricably linked with the Olympic Movement. Commitment, said the IOC President awarding the decoration to Mr. Mollen, which has greatly benefited the cause of sport and Olympism in Norway, whose richness and popularity will be indispensable to the success of the Winter Games in 1994.



*Studying the photographs of the Otto Mayer collection, from l. to r. : Mrs. Françoise Zweifel, Mr. Raymond Gafer, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Mayer, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, Mr. Jean-François Pahud and Mrs. Samaranch.*

ure to examine souvenirs which are somewhat less profuse, but whose intimate nature gives an unrivalled insight into the day-by-day history of the IOC. Such is the collection of Otto Mayer, which his son Mr. Roger Mayer presented to the IOC President on 20th March.

This collection comprises various correspondence, photographs, Session badges, paintings, pins and cups belonging to the man who was Chancellor of the IOC from 1946 to 1964. These items are all the more valuable because of their rarity. Today the documentary value (particularly of the photographs) is beyond compare as a record and witness of the history of the Committee during the post-war period. At that time, the secretariat had neither the structure nor the size that it has assumed today, and private correspondence is often our only means of understanding how ideas originated, how certain decisions were reached, and directions taken which still influence the life of the Movement today. The items in this collection will be of great interest to researchers at the Olympic

Studies Centre and will give us greater understanding of our predecessors, as President Samaranch said when he thanked Mr. Mayer for this important contribution which will enrich the Museum.

■ The Japanese firm ASICS has made a donation of one million US dollars towards construction costs of the new Olympic Museum. Mr. Kihachiro Onitsuka, President of the firm which manufactures sports goods and clothes, made this donation to the IOC President on the occasion of the World Figure Skating Championships held in Paris during March.



*Messrs. Kihachiro and Samaranch show the cheque donated by the firm 'ASICS'.*