

# MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD : FIRST VISIT TO BARCELONA



*In the Palau de la Música, a gathering with all the ceremonial of an IOC Session.*

The Organizing Committee of the Games in Barcelona had certainly organized things well, and this annual meeting between the IOC and the International Summer Sports Federations was in many respects like a full-scale Olympic Session. For the Olympic city, this was the first of a series of preliminary meetings it will have to organize during the next three years which, together with the sports events planned during the same period, will necessarily take on the form of a rehearsal for the great occasion in 1992.



The Palau de la Musica Catalana was the venue chosen by the COOB'92 to get the week of meetings under way, with a gala evening in the richly ornamented and luxuriant surroundings of one of the most famous examples of Catalan modernism, that Art Nouveau which festooned the whole city of the Counts, giving it an undulating aspect at once curious, light and elegant. The Palau and the concert with its resounding Iberian tones, steeped in the Catalan spirit, successfully provided a foretaste of what Barcelona will have to offer on a cultural level in 1992.

Attended by numerous members of the Olympic family, IOC members, representatives of International Federations, sports leaders, officials from the COOB, the generalitat (the Catalan regional government) and the municipality, this event was, however, marked by the presence of the Prince of Asturias, Felipe de Borbón. The heir to the Spanish throne was present to take up his position as honorary President of the COOB'92 Assembly. The audience was welcomed first of all in Catalan by Mr. Pasqual Maragall. Then it was the turn of Mr. Carlos Ferrer, IOC member in Spain, to emphasize, in Spanish, how greatly the holding of the Olympic Games increases the intensity of sports activity during the four years preceding the Games. Speaking in English, ASOIF President Primo Nebiolo expressed his conviction that the Games would run smoothly and without problems. Completing the variety of languages, President Samaranch spoke in French of his optimism as regards the way preparations for the Games were progressing, and once again expressed his confidence in the OCOG and his city.

Finally, the Prince of Asturias concluded the speeches by stressing the close links between the Spanish royal family, sport and Olympism. "I believe," he said, "that every young athlete dreams of taking part in the Olympic Games. That is why Barcelona in 1992 will be, for many of our athletes who achieve the performances necessary to gain selection, the realization of a dream and the reward for constant and strenuous effort."

The Olympic tradition within the Spanish royal family goes back a long way, with Queen Sofia having taken part in the sailing competitions at the 1960 Games in Rome during which her brother King Constantine, an honorary IOC member, won a gold medal in the same discipline. In 1972, King Juan Carlos himself took part in the Olympic sailing events in Kiel, and last year in Seoul, the Infanta Cristina was in the Spanish sailing team. Moreover, right from the start, the king lent his support to Barcelona's Olympic hopes by becoming honorary president of the candidature committee. Through his adoption of the honorary presidency of the COOB by Prince Felipe, the King is again showing both his personal support and that of the State for the Games in Barcelona.

*The young Prince of Asturias makes his maiden speech as Honorary President of the COOB's General Assembly.*



## EXECUTIVE BOARD



*Break in the midst of a full programme for the IOC Executive Board.*

**A**t this Executive Board meeting, the second to be held this year, it was the report by the COOB'92 which was the focus of attention. For two hours, the delegation led by Mr. Pasqual Maragall and Mr. Josep Miguel Abad, Chief Executive Officer, discussed in precise detail the issues still outstanding : operational aspects, telecommunications, road links, airport, accommodation and transport. Each of the section heads gave a report in turn : Messrs. Miguel Botella on administration; Armand Calvo on technology and facilities ; Manuel Fonseca, Deputy Director General, on sports-related questions ; and Conrad Blanch on operations. The reports given were favourably received by the members of the Executive Board, who had been concerned primarily with the

amount of work that still needs to be done before 1992 : sports facilities, an airport extension, the ring road and new hotels. In this connection, the COOB'92 presented an accommodation plan which will provide lodging for 132,000 people. Forty thousand of these will be the Olympic family who will be housed in hotels, three press villages and on cruise liners anchored in the harbour. Plans have been made based on the existing possibilities, explained Mr. Maragall, who admitted that an increase in hotel accommodation was needed as the plan is rather rigid and a margin of safety is vital. The Committee also announced that the opening and closing ceremonies would respect Olympic tradition by taking place in the Montjuic stadium in front of 70,000 spectators and a television audience of

over two billion across the world. Despite the considerable gradient of the road leading up to Montjuic, tradition would again be respected with the marathon runners finishing their race in the stadium on the last day of the Games, while there will be no events on the opening day of the Games.

The Executive Board members visited the Olympic stadium, on which renovation work is nearing completion. Their next destination was the Parc de Mar where the athletes will be accommodated. A superb housing complex beside the sea will shortly be taking shape on this former industrial area lying between the city centre and the Nova Icaria naval base where the Olympic sailing events will be held. The inauguration of the Olympic stadium is planned for 8th September in the presence of the King of Spain, on the occasion of the Vth World Cup in track and field. This occasion will be a full-scale trial run as, with the amount of work still to be completed, it is unlikely that the stadium will be ready by the beginning of the Summer, in time for the Spanish athletics championships. In the words of the IOC President, the time factor is of vital importance between now and 1992, and in view of the amount of work still to be done, the COOB'92 would do well to stagger the work in order to avoid the risks of saturation (a lack of manpower and construction materials.)

## SECURE GAMES

Concerning the venues, the facilities and the scheduling of the events, the COOB'92 has begun signing agreements with each of the IFs. Three IFs have yet to sign, namely the FEI, UIT and FIH. It has however already been agreed that all the field hockey matches will take place at Terrassa, situated about 20 kilometres from Barcelona.

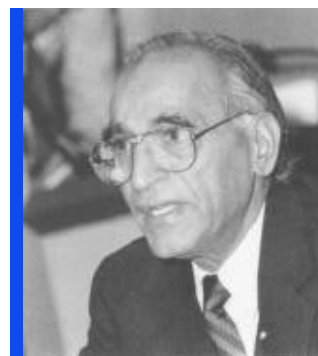
The mayor of Barcelona said that there had been a fall in recorded city within the city and that a co-operation agreement had

been signed between the various police forces. On this subject, the IOC President, in response to questions from journalists at the press conference which concluded the meetings, emphasized the necessity of providing full security to the athletes at the Games, both against the terrorism which sadly affects many other countries in the world too, as well as against the petty crime which must not be allowed to tarnish the image of the host city and country.

As the experience of the Olympic tennis tournament in Seoul, the first since the Games in Paris in 1924, was highly positive, the Executive Board, acting on the advice of the Programme Commission, will propose that the Session in Puerto Rico admits tennis definitively to the Olympic programme.

Regarding the football tournament, the Executive Board will not take a decision before receiving a conclusive number of

*The Executive Board heard the report by Mr. Ashwini Kumar, IOC Member in India and responsible for the file on security, on the state of this matter in Barcelona.*



*Whilst the IOC President was being received by King Juan Carlos of Spain, the members of the Executive Board visited the Olympic Stadium at Montjuic. Unfortunately, the sun did not put in a appearance.*



replies to the letter sent out to the NOCs for their opinions on the age limit of 23 which FIFA wants to impose on its players. Taekwondo, which was the great discovery of the Games in Seoul, will once again be making an appearance in Barcelona, an unsurprising decision given the popularity of the sport in Spain. The competitions proposed by the Organizing Committee will take place over just one day. With rink (i.e. roller) hockey and Basque pelota, taekwondo will be the third demonstration sport at the Games of the XXVth Olympiad. This will not, however, prevent the abolition of demonstration sports from being included on the agenda of the 95th Session in Puerto Rico, a measure intended to lighten as much as possible the programme of the Games. There is no question of introducing cuts to this programme which in Barcelona will comprise 25 Olympic sports, the same as in Seoul, but with the addition of baseball and badminton. The number of events has increased by around 20, making a total number of 258, with the aim of achieving a better balance between male and female participation. Such a large programme should result in over 10,000 athletes attending the Games in 1992.

### **Mr. FRANÇOIS CARRARD IOC DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**A**s Mr. Raymond Gafner, Administrateur Délégué and IOC member in Switzerland, has expressed the wish to be relieved of his duties as head of IOC administration which he took on for a limited period in 1985, the Executive Board has decided to create the post of IOC Director General and has appointed Mr. François Carrard (SUI) to the position.

A doctor of law, Mr. Carrard, 51, is well known to the members of the Olympic family who have met him during Olympic meetings and sports events, at which he has taken part regularly as IOC juridical advisor for almost ten years. A practising lawyer in Lausanne for the last twenty years, he is also director and chairman of several clubs, and at one time headed the

Swiss automobile club. During his studies in Switzerland and the United States, he was a competition swimmer and he is still a great tennis and skiing enthusiast.

Mr. Carrard will take up his duties on 1st October next. As for Mr. Gafner, he will retain various responsibilities, particularly in the area of publications where he will remain Editor-in-Chief of the Olympic Review and the Olympic Message, and Chairman of the Commission for the construction of the new Olympic Museum and of the Media Co-ordination Commission.

### **OTHER DECISIONS**

Several other questions also featured on the meeting's agenda.

Mr. Anselmo Lopez presented the annual Olympic Solidarity report which we introduce further on in this issue. Regarding the Olympic Museum now under construction, Mr. Berthold Beitz, Chairman of the Museum Foundation, announced that the IOC had received nineteen separate donations of one million dollars each. This considerable sum will help to cover the construction costs which are estimated at thirty million dollars. Finally, the Executive Board decided that the IOC would be represented at the 1992 Universal Exhibition in Seville (ESP). Mr. Carlos Ferrer Salat was appointed Commissioner and as such will be responsible for supervising the setting up of an IOC pavilion.



*Mr. François Carrard.*