



### THE SPEECH OF H.E. PASQUAL MARAGALL I MIRA, PRESIDENT OF THE BARCELONA '92 OLYMPIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND MAYOR OF BARCELONA

*The astonishing art nouveau  
sculptures on the facade of the  
Palau de la Musica.*

**I**n my dual capacity as mayor of this city and President of the Barcelona'92 Olympic Organizing Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome you here and to hope that your stay amongst us will be a pleasant one. It is, indeed, a great honour for Barcelona to play host to the meetings of the Executive Board of the IOC and the International Summer Federations.

I am certain that Barcelona will please you with its propensity for universality. Barcelona now wishes to welcome with its usual hospitality one of the most universal movements that humanity has created in its quest for fraternity, that is, the Olympic Movement.

I am convinced that the great enthusiasm of its people was one of the reasons why Barcelona was chosen to play host to the 1992 Summer Games. The ardour, single-mindedness, resolve and coherency of our candidature were decisive factors.

The collective will apparent at the time of the Olympic nomination was merely another indication of the enthusiasm with

which the people of Barcelona have traditionally striven towards such collective goals, thereby proving the highly creative qualities which this city is capable of showing from time to time. During these extremely exciting times, Barcelona's creativity has been harnessed to serve the Olympic ideal.

The 1992 Games will mean a great deal of work for the people of Barcelona. However, there can also be no doubt that they will be a resounding success, and more importantly, a significant step towards attaining the example of a city which is being transformed and an event which is above all a means of encouraging human contact and peaceful competition.

Human contact and peaceful competition, are these not the two traits which define this city? Perhaps this was why, a hundred years ago, Pierre de Coubertin cleverly suggested that the Games should be held not in a country, but in a city. Welcome then to Barcelona, the Olympic City, now three years away from giving the warmest welcome of all. *P.M.*

