

APARTHEID : THE IOC STAYS VIGILANT



Members of the IOC Apartheid and Olympism Commission held a meeting in Kuwait chaired by H. E. Judge Kéba Mbaye (in the centre next to the IOC President). From left to right, Messrs Fekrou Kidane, Sam Ramsamy, special advisers, Mr Kevan Gosper, Mr François Carrard, IOC Director-General, Mrs Betty Guignard, secretary to the commission, Mr He Zhenliang, Mr Marc Hodler, H. E. Mr Jean-Claude Ganga, Mr Lamine Ba. Gen. Henry E. Adefope, not in the photo, was also present. Mr Ivan Slavkov was excused.

The International Olympic Committee has noted the recent events in South Africa but remains vigilant with regard to apartheid, declared President Juan Antonio Samaranch after a meeting of the “Apartheid and Olympism” Commission in Kuwait on 21st and 22nd February 1990.

The Commission was welcomed by Sheikh Fahd Al-Sabah, President of the Olympic Council of Asia and IOC member in Kuwait; Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Work; and Mr Mutaleb Ahmed, OCA Secretary-General.

Although planned a long time in advance, this meeting took on special significance with the recent events in South Africa. The implications of the decisions taken by the South African President, Mr Frederick de Klerk - in particular the release of Mr Nelson Mandela and the legalization of the African National Congress - were examined by the Commission under the chairmanship of H.E. Judge Keba Mbaye, IOC Vice-President and member in Senegal. At the start of the meeting he reminded the commission members that it was not up to them to take a decision but that they had the task of "collating information on the problems concerning both Olympism and apartheid, in order subsequently to inform the whole of the IOC with the aim of enabling it to take the appropriate decisions".

President Samaranch was taking part in the work of this commission for the first time, and afterwards he gave journalists his opinion on the situation: "From the information we have, apartheid still exists in South Africa", he said. "We therefore need to be very cautious in order to avoid any error of judgement. The signs observed are a step in the right direction, and we shall be following Pretoria's attitude during the coming months."

Messrs Fekrou Kidane and Sam Ramsamy, the presidents of the International Campaign Against Apartheid in Sport (ICAAS) and the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC) based in London, who were attending the meeting as advisers, gave a report on their meeting in Paris the previous month with representatives of South African sport to whom they had re-affirmed that South Africa could not hope for re-integration into the Olympic Movement until there were multi-racial sports federations for all Olympic disci-

plines within the country. They also repeated the demands of the IOC and the African sports movement in order for the question of re-admitting South Africa into the international sporting community to be re-examined.

After its meeting the Commission announced that it would be making two recommendations to the IOC Executive Board in April. Firstly that of allowing African sport to listen to the South African sports organizations through the intermediary of ANOCA which could meet them and report on these meetings to the IOC. The second proposal was to help the most underprivileged of South African athletes by providing them, again through ANOCA,

3rd MEETING OF THE APARTHEID AND OLYMPISM COMMISSION



At the press conference after the meeting, the IOC President and H. E. Judge Kéba Mbaye (right).

with technical aid. The aim of this measure, explained Judge Mbaye, would be to enable these athletes to integrate more easily into the international sports community once apartheid had disappeared completely. H.E. Jean-Claude Ganga, IOC member in the Congo and new ANOCA President, thanked the IOC for its confidence but stressed that the solution had to come from Africa itself. On the following day the Commission had an opportunity to exchange views on the evolution of the situation with Messrs Victor James Gbemo from Ghana, and Ameer Araim from Iraq, both members of the United Nations Anti-Apartheid Commission.