

# HELLO FROM VIDY

Here at the start of 1991, no-one expects "Hello from Vidy" to play the role of moralist.

But, written on 8th January, this "Hello" would be meaningless if it paid no attention to the grave threats currently overshadowing our world, threats whose final outcome no-one can predict with any certainty.

Whatever happens, we shall have to go forward and continue our mission in an atmosphere profoundly disturbed by so much rancour, intolerance and possibly violence.

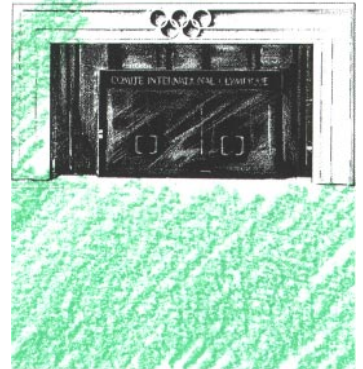
These are, it would be pointless to deny, constants within human nature, cast into one of the pans of the scales which weigh out our destiny. There greatness of Olympism is that it places counterweights in the other pan of the scales, thereby helping to re-establish that balance without which there is no future.

Our Movement makes no claim to be able to influence the human soul. Its ambition is to have a modest but concrete influence on the *behaviour* of every one of us, to make it evolve towards greater tolerance, mutual respect and a sense of personal responsibility and solidarity. While it is pointless to wish to alter the *way we are*, which is written in our genes, we can at last endeavour to change the *way we act* In a human society with such deep-rooted divisions, the essential task is to establish, respect and ensure respect of rules which make our co-existence possible.

Admittedly we are not going to transform our world into a global Olympic village. But we can strive to make the Olympic village in its wider sense, the Olympic community, into a meeting place where the rules of mutual respect written in the Olympic Charter are lived out. The practice of sport and competition in the spirit bequeathed to us by Pierre de Coubertin

should be an important contribution to this. "You've cut that up well, my boy", a French king said after a battle one evening. "Now you've got to sew it back together !"

*Sew it back together !* Perhaps, in an as yet unknown context, this will be the watchword of tomorrow's artisans of Olympism.



**By Raymond Gafner**

Editor-in-Chief



*Olympism throughout the world:  
a painting by Croatian artist Ivan  
Lackovic.*