

# IMMENSE TASK OF PREPARATION

In one year from now, on 8th February 1992, the world's most talented winter sports athletes will be gathering in the French Alps in Albertville for a new edition of the Olympic Winter Games. And at the start of this year, invitations to this phenomenal gathering of the youth of the world will be sent to every National Olympic Committee. For the Games of the XXV Olympiad, the invitations will in their turn be sent on 25th July next, a year before the opening of the great encounter in Spain, at the Montjuic Stadium in Barcelona.

We have once again entered the final straight, where the greatest efforts have still to be made. Preparations are speeding up; construction of sports facilities has almost finished. During the coming months, the athletes will be putting the finished touches to their training programmes and entering the race for selection which will open up to them that Olympic path paved with effort and determination to which they all aspire. As for the organizers, they still have many preparations to complete and have now entered the pre-Games phase, with test events enabling them to refine the various procedures which will ensure the sports festival runs smoothly next year. The Organizing Committees can rely on the vigilant attention of the Executive Board; the IOC will be giving them attentive help in this final and crucial stage of preparations, beginning at a time when the international scene takes on a worrying aspect.

And many other preparations are under way. For, as this Olympiad ends, 1993 will start the next, the emphasis firmly on culture, with the opening in Lausanne of the Olympic Museum now being built. This new venue will bear witness to the multicultural history of Olympism in an interactive presentation which will delight young visitors.

A date further ahead, but three years are nothing-really, 1994 is a year already being actively prepared for. The year will open with the XVII Winter Games in Lillehammer, the first to be separate from the

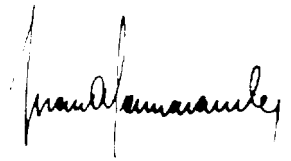
Games of the Olympiad, and continue with the IOC celebrating the centenary of its foundation by holding the XI Olympic Congress. In Paris, the cradle of the Olympic Movement started by Pierre de Coubertin, all the various members of the sports family will meet to define how sport in the next century should look. Numerous events will be organized to mark this occasion.

As holding the Games has become such an arduous and complex task, the IOC now selects the future Olympic cities seven years in advance. Consequently, at the 97th Session in Birmingham in June this year, the IOC will be selecting the city which will host the 1998 Winter Games. After that, making use of its tried and tested know-how, the IOC will be working in close collaboration with the new Organizing Committee, together with those from Albertville, Barcelona, Lillehammer and Atlanta, chosen last September to host the Games in 1996, on the realization of the next five Olympic Games.

Along with all this, the IOC continues to pursue the goals it has set itself, first and foremost the unceasing fight against doping, the implacable threat which constantly hangs over the lives of athletes and the morality of competition sport. In this fight which must be won, the IOC is supported by the whole of the sporting family. In the same way, Olympism is a movement of solidarity, attentive to the needs of each, in the quest for more harmonious sporting development across the world. Another equally important objective is to promote Sport for All events, and the growing success of the Olympic Day Run over the last four years is both a guarantee and a promise for the future.

Olympism, this movement which unites sports and culture, is the sum total of all these events which, from the Games to the smallest of sports meetings, testify to the same kind of preparation, and yet each of these can rely on the combined results of the dedication of individuals.

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE IOC PRESIDENT



*Juan Antonio Samaranch*