

SPORT'S HOMAGE TO SHEIKH FAHAD



The IOC President at the inauguration of the headquarters of the NOC of Kuwait, with (l. to r.), Messrs Arnaldo de)O. Sales, Mario Vazquez Rana, Kevan Gosper, Prince Faisal Fahd Abdul Aziz, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Sabah and Mr Primo Nebiolo.

Kuwait and Lebanon, two countries ravaged by war, were visited last December by the IOC President.

His visit to Kuwait was also an opportunity to pay tribute to the late Sheikh Fahad Al-Sabah, IOC member and president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and the NOC, who died in combat defending his country on the first day of the Iraqi invasion. President Juan Antonio Samaranch was accompanied by Messrs Gosper, IOC vice-president and president of the

NOCs of Oceania; Primo Nebiolo, president of ASOIF and the IAAF; Mario Vazquez Rana, president of ANOC and PASO; Jean-Claude Ganga, president of ANOCA; H.R.H. Prince Faisal Fahd Abdul Aziz, IOC member in Saudi Arabia; François Carrard, IOC Director General; Miss Anne Beddow, Director of NOC Relations; and Mr Fékrou Kidane, IOC adviser.

During the formal ceremony at Sheikh Fahad's grave, attended by members of the OCA executive council along with sports leaders from the region, President Samaranch recalled simply but movingly that "Sheikh Fahad was a great leader and a friend of all of us, who served sport with devotion throughout his life".

The Olympic delegation visited the sites of the different sports facilities destroyed during the war. But the Kuwaitis are taking up the challenge, reconstructing their country to live in peace as in the past. The wrecked OCA and NOC headquarters, Olympic museum and sports facilities have all been rebuilt. The IOC President, who had come specially to inaugurate the new premises, paid a tribute to Sheikh Fahad and his work by donating a sculpture by the Spanish artist Rosa Serra. For their part, Messrs Rana and Nebiolo presented to Sheikh Ahmad the Order of Merit awarded posthumously to his father, on behalf of ANOC and the IAAF.

The Emir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and the prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, received the delegation and expressed their thanks for the untiring support shown by the Olympic Movement during the tragedy that engulfed their country.

THE RUINS OF BEIRUT

The second part of this presidential journey to the Middle East took Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch to Beirut, where he was welcomed by the minister of national education, Mr Boutros Harb, and the NOC president, Mr Tony Khouri accompanied by the NOC executive committee. Formerly the economic and tourist centre of the region, Beirut is now a city in ruins after seventeen years of war and fratricide. President Samaranch, who was received by the Lebanese head of state, Mr Elias Hrawi, stressed the urgent need to rebuild the sports centre



The work of Rosa Serra, donated by the IOC President, stands in front of the portrait of Sheikh Fahad.

Messrs Mario Vazquez Rana and Marian Renke, ANOC president and secretary general, present Sheikh Ahmad with ANOC's Award of Merit, posthumously awarded to his father.

