

# THE DOYEN'S ADDRESS

At the end of the 98th IOC Session, His Royal Highness the Grand Duke Jean de Luxembourg, the IOC Doyen, gave the closing address.

**B**efore we conclude our discussions, permit me to share with you, as is traditional, some reflections upon the Olympic Games and our Movement.

When he greeted the Olympic flame upon its arrival in Paris, the President of the French Republic, Mr François Mitterrand, Included the following sentence in his speech:

"I believe that the Olympic Games, like all of us, have the most pressing need to remain in direct contact with our young people, primarily because they are the life-blood of the Games, but also because this huge, rather sophisticated, costly, sponsor- and media-supported machine is

in constant danger of leaving the rails, and it needs the strength of conviction, sporting faith of national and international leaders and the the impetus of these young people in order to avoid this."

Are we not running the risk of one day seeing Olympism obscured by the concern for material gain, or swallowed up by the exaggerated influence of the media? That would mean the estrangement of our young people from the fundamental principles of the Olympic Movement. These are problems which deserve to be meditated upon and analysed.

I think that at our Olympic Congress in Paris, we must turn our attentions to the theme whose title is to be found at the top of the list: "Olympism, its ethics and its structures".

Mr President, before we make way for the athletes, I should like to congratulate and thank you on behalf of all my colleagues for having displayed, in your chairmanship of the important discussions of this 98th Session, all the qualities of mind and heart which we know you to possess.

I can assure you that the ever-more voluminous and complex work which you personally and our colleagues on the Executive Board perform is greatly appreciated by all of us. As Doyen of the members of the IOC, I especially wish to say publicly before this Session how delighted we all are that, in recognition of the excellent work which you have performed towards promoting sport and improving relations between the peoples of the whole world, His Majesty the King of Spain has honoured you with the title Marques de Samaranch.

I shall ask my IOC colleagues to join me in offering to you, dear President, our heartiest congratulations for this so richly-deserved honour. Finally, I should like to express our warmest thanks to our French colleagues and the organizing committee for their great efforts in preparing for this Session.

*H.R. H. The Grand Duke Jean de Luxembourg giving his address.*





Seated, from l. to r., in the first and second rows : H.E. Mr Guirandou-N'Diaye, Messrs Raymond Cafner, Un Yong Kim, Alexandru Siperco, H.R.H The Grand Duke Jean de Luxembourg, Mr Kevan Gosper, Lord Killanin, Mr Gunnar Ericsson, President Juan Antonio Samaranch, Mr François Carrard, H.E. Mr Keba Mbaye, H.E. Mr Mohamed Zerguini, Mr Zhenliang He, H.E. Mr Jean-Claude Ganga, Mrs Flor Isava Fonseca, Tan Seri Hamzah, Messrs Vitaly Smirnov, Marc Hodler. Standing behind : Mr Iay Wilson, Mrs Françoise Zweifel, Messrs Thomas Bach (out of view), Ashwini Kumar, Denis Oswald, Francisco Elizalde, Maurice Herzog, Dr Abdel Mohamed Halim, Prince Alexandre de Merode (out of view), Major Sylvio de Magalhaes Padilha, Messrs Sikhulumi Sibandze, Joao Havelange, Major-General Henry Adefope, H.M. King Constantine, Messrs Lose Vallarino Veracierto, Anani Matthia, Jan Staubo, Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, Sinan Erdem, Prof. Rene Essomba, Messrs Lambis Nikolaou, Syed Wajid Ali, Mohamed Mzali, Mrs Pirió Haggman, Mr Vladimir Cernusak, Hadi Mohammed Benjelloun, Messrs Philipp von Schoeller, Yu Sun Kim, Dr Eduardo Hay, H.S.H. Princess Nora of Liechtenstein, Marchioness of Marino, Mr Wlodzimierz Reczek, Mrs Mary Alison Glen-Haig, Col. Antonio Rodriguez, Messrs Magdarjav Magvan, Bashir Attarabulsi, Dr Kevin O'Flanagan, Mr Henry Hsu, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Messrs Pal Schmitt, Masaji Kiyokawa, Phillip Coles, Fidel Mendoza Carrasquilla, Lames Worrall, Major-General Francis Nyangweso. Standing on platform, back rows, from l. to r. : Messrs Carlos Ferrer, Richard Carrion, Chiharu Igaya, Richard Pound, Seiuli Paul Wallwork, Mr Charles Mukora, H.S.H. Prince Albert de Monaco, Messrs Shun-Ichiro Okano, Slobodan Filipovic, H.E. Mr Lamine Keita, Messrs Nikos Filaretos, Willi Kaltschmitt, Ivan Slavkov, Dr Jacques Rogge, Messrs Ching-Kuo Wu, Fernando Lima Belle, Dr Nat Indrapana, Mr Anton Geesink, Mrs Anita Defrantz, Messrs Ram Ruhee, Borislav Stankovic, General Zein Abdel Gadir, Messrs Philippe Chatrier, Marat Gramov, Niels Holst-Sørensen, Mario Vazquez Raña, Ivan Dibos, Roque Napoleon Muñoz Peña.