

# A HOUSE FOR FRENCH SPORT



*The headquarters of the French NOC, a centre for all the French federations.*

It was a good opportunity to take advantage of the excitement of the Games for the inauguration of the new headquarters of French sport, with a large crowd and success guaranteed.

**T**he dream long held by Mr Nelson Paillou, President of the CNOSF, became reality near the old Charléty stadium, the most famous in Paris and currently being renovated. The building, which rises six storeys high, towers like a liner at a quayside over its home base. the Paris University Club, a symbolic location which has witnessed many exploits in French athletics. With six thousand square metres of offices, meeting rooms, a 350-seat amphitheatre, two restaurants, a radio and television studio and a board room where particular attention has been paid to decor, the CNOSF can now offer French sports federations a set of shared facilities for their meetings, symposiums and other regular assemblies. With the support of the city of Paris, which gave the land, and the help of the architects Pierre and Henri Gaudin, this new complex is worthy of the French sports movement. In a

warm and almost family atmosphere, Mr Jacques Chirac, mayor of Paris, accompanied by Mrs Frédérique Bredin, Minister of Youth and Sports, the IOC President and the Vice-Presidents, President Nelson Paillou and administrators from the CNOSF, cut the ribbon allowing the guests to take the first steps across the threshold where an immense replica of the CNOSF emblem is engraved into the floor. As Micheline Ostermeyer, triple Olympic medallist in 1948 and virtuoso pianist struck up the Olympic anthem, President Samaranch unveiled a life-size statue of Pierre de Coubertin given by the IOC. This splendid bronze casting, the work of Jean Cardot at the chateau of the Coubertin Foundation, will henceforth welcome visitors in the entrance hall of this house, which the CNOSF sincerely hopes that all sportsmen and women will feel free to visit.