

"I want to be in Sarajevo for the 10th anniversary of the 1984 Games"

The IOC President's dearest wish is to be able to go to Sarajevo in February on the tenth anniversary of the XIV Winter Games.



These Games took place in 1984 in the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, then a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural melting-pot, which offered the world the impressive richness of its shared traditions. Today the city is devastated, and racked with constant suffering. *"I want to show my solidarity with the people who welcomed us for these Games, which were my first as President."* The IOC is calling for an Olympic Truce during the Games in Lillehammer, and the President's ardent hope is that mortar fire and other military operations will stop at least for this period, so that the people can at last draw breath and recover their strength. Of course, merely hoping will not make the Truce a reality: *"If you ask me whether the Truce will be observed. I will tell you that it will be very difficult. But we must try, and we will try,"* declared the President.

This was the reason behind the visit of representatives of the NOCs of Yugoslavia (Serbia-Montenegro) and Croatia to Lausanne, and President Samaranch's meeting on 21st December in Geneva with delegations of the three sides fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Speaking in turn with the Bosnian president, Mr **Alija Itzebegovic**, and the Croatian and Serbian representatives, Mr **Mate Boban** and Mr **Radovan Karadzic** respectively, the President reminded them of the links between the sports movement and peace, which was the

A key image from the Games in Sarajevo: ten years ago Jayne Torvill et Christopher Dean triumphed there in ice dance.





1) The Programme Commission presents its report to the Executive Board. 2) Surrounded by Winter IF representatives, Mr Marc Hodler meets the Executive Board. 3) Mr Fékrou Kidane presents the emblem of the International Year of Sport and the Olympic ideal. Below right, Mr Nelson Paillou.

ultimate aim of the month-long truce supported by the UN. Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch expressed his hope of visiting Sarajevo during the press conference following the short ceremony to mark the official launch of the **International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal**. Also at the ceremony were members of the Executive Board. Mrs Yvette Jaggi, mayor of Lausanne, and Mr Vladimir Petrovsky, representing the United Nations. The official launch of the Olympic Truce is 24th January.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

During its final meeting of the year, a few days earlier, on 6th, 7th and 8th December, the Executive Board



approved the Finance Commission report, presented by its chairman **Marc Hodler**, IOC member in Switzerland. The Board also heard the report of **Philippe Chatrier**, chairman of the Programme Commission. The President, in reply to questions from journalists, stated: *"the IOC wants evolution, not revolution."* He said that, as far as the IFS were concerned. *"nothing will be done that is not necessary. The Federations know that we need to reform and modernize the programme. This will be accomplished one step at a time. It will be up to the Session in Paris (which will take place after the Centennial Congress) to decide. If there are any changes, they will be improvements, not transformations."*



This is the Centennial year of the creation of the IOC and the revival of the Olympic Games, and the hundredth birthday of the Olympic Movement. The 48th General Assembly of the United Nations decided last autumn to declare 1994 The Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal. The Olympic Review will be making its own contribution by reporting on the various celebrations as they occur. A high point of the year will be the XII Olympic Congress which will take place in the modern La Défense district of Paris from 30th August to 2nd September, after an opening ceremony at the Sorbonne University, where the first Olympic Congress was held in 1894. Eight internationally renowned personalities will be invited to speak on the role of the sports movement into the next century. The 103rd IOC Session will take place after the Congress on the 4th and 5th September. A preparation seminar for the Congress will be taking place in the spring in Lausanne: around twenty academics will be invited to discuss the themes of the Congress.

