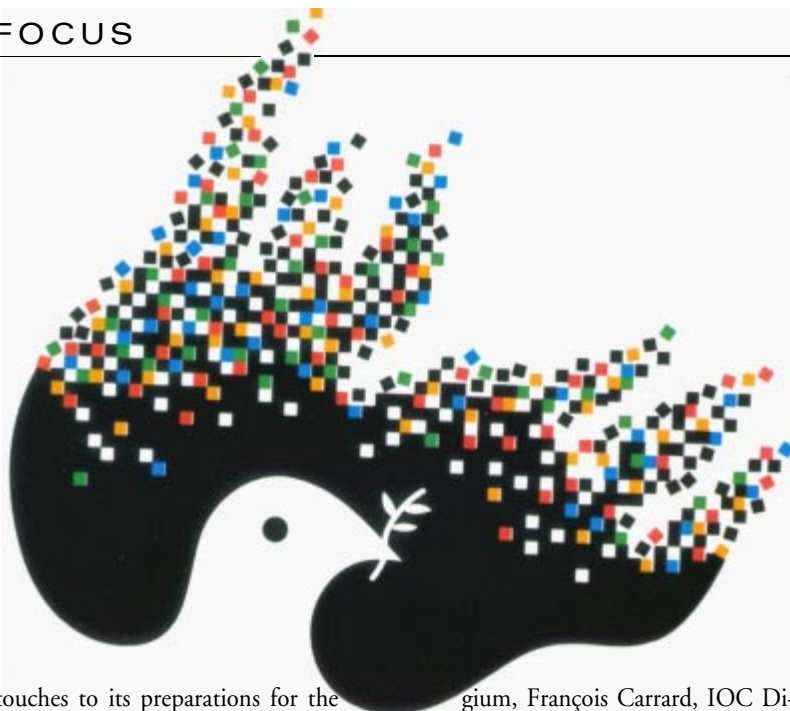


# THE FLAME STILL BURNS IN SARAJEVO

*The Olympic Installations in Sarajevo are in a terrible state but the Olympic flame is fervently kept alight in the hearts of the people. President Juan Antonio Samaranch saw this for himself when he visited the Olympic city from 14th to 16th February. In Lillehammer, the IOC and the Olympic Games Commemorated the 10th anniversary of the XIV Winter Games.*





touches to its preparations for the Games which, from 7th to 19th February 1984, attracted the attention of the entire world to the city and to the country of Yugoslavia. To show the solidarity of the IOC in this anniversary month, President Juan Antonio Samaranch went to Sarajevo, accompanied by Mario Vázquez Raña, president of ANOC and IOC member in Mexico. Jacques Rogge, AENOC

gium, François Carrard, IOC Director General and Fékrou Kidane, IOC special adviser. The President, who had brought first aid and food, met Mr Itzebegovic, president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to whom he delivered a message of support from the Olympic Family. This trip, full of emotion and inspired by the strength of all the world's athletes, reinforced the appeal for the Olympic Truce

*The IOC President visits what was Sarajevo's Olympic ice rink, now occupied by UN tanks.*



## TRUCE ATTRACTS TOP-LEVEL SUPPORT

The Olympic Truce, which was launched on 24th January to take effect during the XVII Olympic Winter Games, obtained the support of distinguished persons. The UN secretary general, **Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali**, sent the IOC President a message of support, and the President of the French Republic, **Mr François Mitterrand**, gave his personal endorsement to the IOC's appeal and assured Mr Samaranch of his total solidarity. The idea of the truce was also welcomed by the British government. **Mr John Major** sent his wishes for success. You may be assured," wrote Mr Major to the IOC President, that we will continue in these endeavours, as well as using our position in the United Nations to work for the peaceful settlement of disputes across the world.' Greek prime minister **Mr Andreos Papandreu** also sent an appeal on behalf of the Greek athletes to all political and military leaders to respect the Olympic Truce. "The Olympic Truce Ekecheria -as conceived by the ancient Greeks, was the conclusion of the spirit of solidarity and understanding among peoples and offered the opportunity for the Olympic Games to be normally carried out by suspending any armed conflict." Russian President **Boris Yeltsin** also sent a message of congratulations on the occasion of the Games in Lillehammer in this anniversary year, which has been declared the international year of sport and the Olympic Idea. "I am sure," declared President Yeltsin, that this jubilee year will spread in the world the human values of Olympism which inspire and unite as a whole the beauty of the human body and the dignity of will and intellect". The leaders of Georgia, President **Edouard Shevardnadze** and Prime Minister **Otar Patsatsia** also sent a message of support.

launched by the IOC on the occasion of the XVII Olympic Winter Games. President Samaranch repeated the appeal during the opening ceremony of the Games, and asked for a moment's silence as a sign of solidarity with Sarajevo, the town which ten years ago welcomed the world in a spirit of complete friendship.

### **CELEBRATION OF HAPPIER DAYS IN SARAJEVO**

Some days earlier several events were held to commemorate the XIV Olympic Winter Games. In Sarajevo itself the memory of those happy times was celebrated soberly but with ardour. The ceremony in the national theatre, where the opening of the 87th IOC Session had taken place, opened to the strains of the Olympic anthem. The mayor of the Olympic city, Mr Muhamed Kresevljakovic, deplored the fact that, over the last ten years, Sarajevo had changed from "one of the most beautiful Olympic cities to the biggest concentration camp in the world", before inviting the whole world to come to Sarajevo, "City of love and death, where the Olympic flame is still burning". Under this moving caption, Sarajevo television broadcast each night, for the few privileged people with electricity, nostalgic images of the competitions that involved 1437 athletes from 49 countries. The ceremony had only a small audience: the inhabitants of the city avoid crowds since the tragic bombing in the market place on 5th February. There was a brief contribution from singer Gertruda Munitic and a poetry recital over a background of chamber music, and the ceremony ended with children dancing in the Olympic colours. The sole decoration a poster specially printed for the occasion, bore the five Olympic rings dripping with blood.

### **SOLIDARITY IN LILLEHAMMER**

The 102nd IOC ceremony echoed this moving ceremony with a demon-



*The delegation of the Bosnian Olympic Committee reports to a Session which has the Olympic flag at half mast*

stration of solidarity. On 7th February the Olympic flags were flown at half-mast and members expressed their condolences, after the tragic market place bombing, to a delegation from the NOC of Bosnia-Herzegovina led by its president, Mr Stjepan Kljuic, and two athletes, luger Verona Marjanovic and bobsledder Nizar Zacinagic. The IOC President spoke of his memories of Sarajevo and the excellent Games, his first as President, that the city had organized. *You can rest assured,* he added, *'that the Olympic movement will do its utmost to help you, as it has done in the past'*. Speaking on behalf of the Bosnian athletes, Nizar Zacinagic pointed out that the Olympic team was made up of Muslims, Croats and Serbs (fifteen people in all) who wished only to be free, to live normally.

### **WAR HAS DEVASTATED THE OLYMPIC INSTALLATIONS**

Like Lillehammer, Sarajevo was chosen because it had the advantage of offering compact sites. Today the war has left the Olympic installations in a state of advanced dilapidation. Some sites have been almost entirely destroyed, and others are seriously damaged. The Zetra skating rink with its futuristic architecture (O.R.

No. 195-6), the site of the closing ceremony, has been completely burned down. Its cellars are being used as a base for a French division of the United Nations protection force. The adjoining land, where the skating competitions took place, is covered by the graves of war victims. The Skenderija sports complex, the pride of the city, is also ruined, with one facade pockmarked with shells. It is surrounded by a thick layer of sandbags which also protect the UNPROFOR. In Trebevic, the bobsleigh run has been almost completely destroyed and higher up, the ski pistes, the only installations which are still in a reasonable condition, have seen no skiers for the last three years. A tiny consolation, the collections of the Olympic museum founded in the year of the Games are to go on display to mark this tenth anniversary, with a collectors' stamp issued by the Bosnian post office.