



O B I T U A R I E S



German Rieckehoff, IOC honorary member in Puerto Rico since 1990, dies on 3 September in the aircraft which was taking him from Geneva to Puerto Rico. Born in 1915, Rieckehoff practised basketball, softball, baseball, tennis, athletics and football. The founder and editor-in-chief of the sports newspaper *El Campeon* and sports editor for *La Democracia*, he was the founder and first president of the national football federation in 1940, and of the Puerto Rican Equestrian Federation in 1942. He was Chef de mission at the Games of the XX Olympiad in Munich in 1972, before heading the organizing committee for the VII World Championships in basketball in 1973 and for the VIII Panamerican Games from 1973 to 1977. In 1977 he was coopted into the IOC, and in the same year became president of the Puerto Rican NOC, a post he held again from 1981 to 1990. He was also president of the Central American and Caribbean Sports Organization (ODECABE) in 1978 and 1982. Rieckehoff was a member of the following IOC commis-

sions: Radio (1983-1984), Study and Evaluation for the Preparation of the Olympic Games (1984-1986), Eligibility (1989-1990) and International Olympic Academy (1990). After becoming ill in Lausanne, where he was to have attended the 106th IOC Session, Rieckehoff wrote a farewell letter to his colleagues which the IOC President read to the Session: "In 1977 as a young man of 62, I was coopted in Prague as a member of this prestigious organization. In 1990, I became an honorary member. I am proud to have been a part of this organization which I served to the best of my abilities and with a faithful adherence to its principles. My health, at the old age of 83, will not allow me to continue attending the annual Sessions, much less the Games. So this is a farewell to you, old friends, most of whom I will never see again. May God help you continue serving Olympism so that it may grow even better in the new millennium. I thank you. German Rieckehoff".

IOC honorary member in Egypt since 1993 **Ahmed Eldemerdash Touny** died in Cairo in August. Born in 1907 in Mallawi, Touny led a parallel career in sports administration and national politics. A Member of Parliament from 1968 to 1980 before becoming a senator, he founded the Egyptian Gymnastics Federa-



tion and was subsequently its honorary president, a post he also held within the Egyptian Olympic Committee and the African Amateur Swimming Confederation. Touny was coopted into the IOC in 1960, and was a member of various commissions: Olympic Aid (1961-1963), joint Commission IV (1968-1971), Protection of the Olympic Emblems (1969-1977), Olympic programme (1972-1980) and International Olympic Academy (1980-1988). He was also the author of *Sport in Ancient Egypt*, published in English, German, Japanese and Arabic.



IOC member **Hadj Mohammed Benjelloun** died

in Casablanca (Morocco) on 20 September 1997. Born in 1912, he practised various sports: athletics, gymnastics, swimming, basketball, handball and rugby football. Benjelloun was behind the creation of numerous Moroccan sports federations and organizations, among them the Royal Moroccan Rugby Federation, the Casablancan multisport "Wydad Athletic Club" (WAC) and the Islamic Sports Union. He also founded the Moroccan Olympic Committee of which he was president for many years. A member of the International Mediterranean Games Committee, the Arab Sports Union and the United States Sports Academy, he was also first vice president of the International Amateur Rugby Federation. In 1961, he was director of the 3rd PanArab Games in Casablanca and in 1983 he was a member of the Organizing Committee of the IX Mediterranean Games in Casablanca. A founder member of the International World Travellers Club (IWTC), Benjelloun was also very active within the United Towns Organization, on whose International Council and constitutional council he served. Having been elected a member of the IOC in 1961, he served on the Olympic Aid Commission (1962-1943) and the Cultural Commission (1989-1990).