

resources. There is therefore no reason why they should not do the same for the Olympic Games. When I was responsible for my NOC in the '60s and '70s there was no external financial support, but this did not prevent us from winning medals at every Olympic Games, as we continue to do today. Of course, it has not come to this, although echoes of various attempts at blackmail by publicity-hungry people do reach us from time to time.

"Any institution, any creation, however alive it may be", said Coubertin, "develops according to the customs and the passions of the moment. Today, politics infiltrates to the heart of all problems. How can sport, 'muscu-

larism', Olympism itself, escape? But the ravages it can cause are only on the surface. In reality, institutions almost always undergo two types of development : that of the outward appearance and that of the soul. The first tries to espouse the forms of fashion, and changes according to fashion's whims; the second remains as constant as the principles on which the institution rests; it evolves slowly and healthily, in accordance with human laws themselves. Olympism belongs to this latter category."

The IOC President has already taken the necessary measures to ensure that reforms will be under way by the end of this year, and that "IOC 2000" reflects the hopes and expectations of

all its members, to ensure that the Olympic ideal can continue to serve the building of a peaceful and better world in the third millennium. Coubertin said, "I did not place the effective management of revived Olympism in the hands of my successor until I considered the work of revival to be completely in order, including the most minor details, answering current needs, but nevertheless in accordance with the memories and lessons of the past, and until universal acceptance had guaranteed its survival." This is the legitimate and well-founded aspiration of Juan Antonio Samaranch, as was the case for his predecessor, Pierre de Coubertin. The rest is fiction.

## Development

### National forums

In the framework of the International Olympic Forum for Development (IOFD), two national forums were organized last March in Madagascar and Mauritius. At Antananarivo, the minister Mamy Ratomalala, representing the Prime Minister, officially opened the Forum, which was attended by the minister for Youth and Sport, Corvette Ndrinasolo, the president of the Madagascar NOC, Roger Henri and a number of representatives of the Madagascar political and sports world. At the end of two days of discussions, the recommendations

which were adopted by the 120 or so participants included organizing an annual symposium, setting up a national coordination structure for international aid and a centre of excellence in each province, the creation of a documentation centre on Madagascan sport and, above all, the reconsideration of physical and sports activities as educational disciplines in their own right in support projects for educational systems

The second forum took place at Port-Louis in the presence of the Mauritian minister for Youth and Sport, Marie-Claude Arouff-Parfait, the IOC member

Ram Ruhee and the president of the Mauritian NOC, Chintaman Rambocus. Some 50 people took part. The issues which were discussed included not only the Olympic Movement in Mauritius, the organization of African sport and the problem of funding sport

and the development of sport, but also the importance of school sport, women in sport, and training and using sports managers.

These two forums were coordinated by Fékrou Kidane, executive secretary of the IOFD.



*The participants in Mauritius.*