

News Flash

Albania

The first National Conference on Children's Rights, Peace and Sport was organized in Tirana in February. Almost 150 people from all over Albania, including high authorities of the government, non-governmental organizations, education and sport, the Youth Council, Children Cultural Centres, national federations, coaches, parents, physical education teachers, children as well as representatives of the UNICEF and UNDP local offices and of the Italian NOC took part in this Conference which was addressed by the First Lady of the Republic of Albania Lidra Mediani. Two sessions were held :

the first focused on peace, psycho-social problems and the rights of children to be educated with a culture of peace, the second treated problems mainly concerning the tendencies of physical

and sports education on children's sports and their proper infrastructure. Diplomas were awarded to the young football players of Lapraka (Tirana) who despite the turmoil of 1997 kept playing football

and set an example to the inhabitants and other children of that area. An appeal on "Peace - Sport for Children" was unanimously approved by all the participants and concluded the Conference.



The First Lady of the Republic, Lidra Mediani (on the left), welcoming the participants of the Conference.

Spain

At an official ceremony, Spanish athlete Jordi Llopart i Ribas recently received the Olympic Order from Jordi Vilajoana i Rovira, cultural councillor of the Government of Catalonia. Jordi Llopart i Ribas became the first Spanish athlete to win a gold medal at the European athletics championships in 1978 in Prague, and was second in the 50km walk at the Games of the XXII Olympiad in Moscow in 1980, thus also becoming the first Spanish Olympic medallist. He also participated in the

Games in Los Angeles in 1984 and in Seoul in 1988. After his sports career, he has coached elite walkers such as Daniel Plaza, Olympic champion in Barcelona in 1992 (20km), Jesus Angel Garcia Bragado, world champion in 1993 and second in the 1997 world championships. Jordi Llopart i Ribas was elected best Catalan and Spanish sportsman in 1978 and 1980, and has also been decorated with the Spanish Royal Order of Sporting Merit.



Jordi Llopart i Ribas