



As this issue of the Journal goes to press, the dominant mood around the world following the terrible events of September 11 is one of shock and grief. There are other components to that mood --- among them sympathy, anger and an awful sense of apprehension. The knowledge that a global state of war now exists challenges our comprehension, and tests the resolve of all of us.

One way to react has been to offer prayers for the souls of the victims of those terrorist attacks from the skies above the United States. Another has been to realise, and to ponder, just how precious and fleeting is the gift of life. Another has been to reach out, to offer comfort, to affirm friendship.

In its modest way, that is what the Journal seeks to do today. Ours is a small society, just 308 people --- 82 of whom live in the United States. We are a community within a wider community, which is the Olympic movement. We are bonded by an affection for that movement, and specifically its history. Today we reach out to embrace our American members, but also our whole community -- in effect, each other --- in a spirit of sympathy and friendship. That atrocity has touched us all.

Jacques Rogge has cited the Olympic Games as an answer to the violence that exists, and affirmed their role as "the best message of brotherhood, fraternity and universality." Perhaps there is some consolation in the knowledge that he is right.

Message from the Secretary-General

Congratulations should have been the order of the day, but they are, of course, overshadowed by the atrocities that happened in the United States! Nevertheless, the words written above both our Messages already showed how we feel.

The *International Society of Olympic Historians* congratulates Dr. Jacques Rogge on his election as President of the *International Olympic Committee*. He has brought a remarkable honour to his homeland of Belgium, which can now claim to be the only country in the world to have produced two men who have become leaders of the Olympic movement.

We trust that the contacts between the IOC and ISOH will remain as cordial and close as they have become over the past ten years. At the same time, we express our deep gratitude to the now Honorary President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch, Marqu   de Samaranch for his unflinching and continuing interest in Olympic history and in ISOH. Without his help, ISOH would not have been as successful as we are today --- with over 300 members in 49 countries. We hope that he will soon recover from his period of relapse after relinquishing his post and the tremendous load he carried until then.

ISOH also congratulates the city of Beijing on its election as host city of the Games of the XXIXth Olympiad in 2008. We express the hope that these third Olympic Games to be organised in Asia may be as successful as the previous ones were in their time.

A further cause for modest celebration within this organisation is the recent award of the Olympic Order to three members of the ISOH executive committee. These honours, which of course reflect credit on the Society itself, were decided upon by the Council of the Olympic Order,

which conferred during the IOC Executive Board meeting in Lausanne on May 15, 16 and 17. In a separate column by David Wallechinsky you can read about the three recipients.

A major event for ISOH this year was a meeting of the Executive Committee at Chateau de Vidy in Lausanne on May 3, convened at the personal invitation from President Samaranch. A report of that conference can be found in this issue.

As mentioned earlier, membership of the Society has now passed the 300 mark. While this is a milestone which obviously affords us great pleasure, it is appropriate to remind members that quite a few subscriptions are long overdue. Please check that your own membership is paid for, and thus valid.

Where there is joy, there can be sorrow too. I regret that I again have to announce the passing of two members of our Society. Dr. Yves-Pierre Boulongne, the distinguished Coubertin scholar, passed away in January 2001. Dr. Norbert M  ller has written his obituary. Jim Stevens from Albuquerque in New Mexico, United States passed away in March 2001 at the age of 66. His obituary will be published in a later edition.

At the end of this year, to be exact on December 5th, 2001, the *International Society of Olympic Historians* will celebrate a major anniversary. On that day ISOH will have existed for exactly ten years. The Executive Committee decided during its meeting in Lausanne to publish a major commemorative issue in December. You can expect a Journal to remember --- with some very exciting stories and some historical discoveries.

Anthony Th. Bijkerk
Secretary-General