
IN SOFIA: GOLDEN OLYMPIC ORDER AND ENOC MEETING

During his stay in the Bulgarian capital on the occasion of the General Assembly of the Association of European NOCs, the President of the IOC awarded the Golden Olympic Order to the head of state, Mr. Todor Zhivkov, President of the State Council. This official ceremony took place in the presence of Mr. Ivan Slavkov, IOC member, as well as many personalities from the Bulgarian sports scene.

In his speech, President Samaranch stressed the extent to which sport was developing in Bulgaria — one of the thirteen nations which took part in the first Olympic Games of the Modern Era in 1896 and which remained one of the only countries to have included within its constitution the development of sport as one of the essential tasks of the State. The President also awarded the Olympic Order to the boxer Boris Gueorguiev, the first Bulgarian athlete to have won an Olympic medal during the Games of the XVth Olympiad in Helsinki in 1952. In addition, he paid a visit to General Vladimir Stoytchev, honorary member of the IOC, accompanied by Mr. Raymond Gafner, administrateur délégué.

The representatives of thirty-four European NOCs met in general assembly on 8th and 9th October. In a message addressed to them on this occasion, Mr. Mario Vázquez Raña, ACNO President, who was unable to be present, recalled the *historic contribution to the Olympic cause* made by the Association of European NOCs. President Samaranch, in turn, announced from the podium that the IOC intended to allocate 500 US\$, after the Olympic Games next year, for each athlete who had taken part in the Games. This sum will be used for the partial reimbursement of the expenses incurred in their preparation. Mr. Franco Carraro, IOC member in Italy, having tendered his resignation, on account of his new functions in the Italian Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Kurt Heller, President of the Austrian NOC, was elected President of this Association. It is thus he who will host the XVIIIth Assembly which will take place in Vienna next year. Mr. Mario Pescante, Secretary General of the Italian NOC, was elected a member of ENOC's executive council.



The IOC President has just awarded the Olympic Order to Mr. Todor Zhivkov.

The ENOC platform (on the centre).

The boxer Boris Gueorguiev is congratulated on his decoration.