

# Presidential activities

H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, congratulating Elena Mukhina (URS) after he had presented her with the Silver Medal of the Olympic Order. This distinction is in recognition of her career as a gymnast and the courage she has shown since the accident which so cruelly marked her life.



Helsinki, Pans, Sarajevo and Moscow were the latest stop-overs in a year full of travel. H. E. Juan Antonio Samaranch ended 1962 having fulfilled part of his programme of personal visits to all the NOCs of the world.

## Helsinki

The President of the IOC was welcomed at Helsinki by Mr Peter Tallberg and Mrs Pirjo Haggman, members of the IOC in Finland and was then received by the President of the Finnish Republic, Mr Mauno Koivisto. The next day, he attended the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Finnish National Olympic Committee, where he hoisted the Olympic flag, and made the following speech :



*The President of the Finnish Republic with the President of the IOC.*

*"Dear Friends,*

*Every one here present knows from experience what the 75 years of the Finnish Olympic Committee mean. The list of those who have contributed, from far and near, to the life of this committee is a long one, and it would be impossible here to thank them all. However, their names remain engraved on our memory and are entered forever in the history of this country for the part which they have played in the building of modern Finland. This nation is known throughout the world for its tenacity, its courage and its remarkable sporting spirit.*

*As President of the IOC, I can say that Finland's daughters and sons have always brought honour to their country within the Olympic Movement. This is why the movement which I represent wishes to pay a particular tribute to each one. May this specially embroidered flag be a testimony to the very high esteem in which the Olympic family holds all Finnish men and women.*

*May it also be a mark of our profound respect and our gratitude to them for all that they have brought to Olympism and to Finland."*

Eighty Finnish Olympic Champions were invited to this commemorative evening, during which H. E. Juan Antonio Samaranch presented the Olympic medal to Mr Jukka Uunila and the silver medal of the Olympic Order to Mr Paavo Honkajuuri, IOC member in Finland from 1967 to 1961, which had been awarded to him by his peers at the 65th Session of the IOC held in Rome in May 1962.

During the two days which he spent in the Finnish capital, the President of the IOC held a press conference, and also had a meeting with Mr Carl-Olaf Homen, the President of the Organizing Committee for the World Athletics Championships which will take place this year this year at Helsinki.



*From left to right: Mr. Jukka Uunila, Mr. Carl-Olaf Homen, Mr. Kivi Lennart, Mr. Kosti Rasinperä Mr. Peter Tallberg, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch and Mrs. Pirja Haggman.*

## Paris

In December, Paris was the setting for two outstanding sports events, the closing ceremony of the centenary celebrations of the Racing Club de France (see Olympic Review No 183, January 1983, page 58) and the Womens' World Judo Championships organized with a master's hand by Mr Georges Pfeifer, President of the French Judo Federation.

In the presence of Messrs. Shigeyoshi Matsushima and Heinz Kempa, President and Secretary General respectively of the FIJ, H. E. Juan Antonio Samaranch presented the gold medal to Karin Briggs (48 kg category), while Loretta Doyle (52 kg category) received hers from the hands of Mme Monique Berlioux, Director of the IOC.

Mr Arpad Csanadi, a member of the Executive Board, attended these championships in his capacity as Honorary Sports Director of the IOC

## Sarajevo

Shortly after his return from Paris, the IOC President, accompanied by Mr Marc Hodler, President of the International Ski Federation and a member of the IOC in Switzerland, flew to Sarajevo where he was greeted on the tarmac by Messrs Boris Bakrac, IOC member in Yugoslavia, Anto Susie, President of the Executive Board of the Organizing Committee Emerik Blum, Mayor of Sarajevo and vice-President of the OCOG, Ahmed Karabegovic, Secretary General of the OCOG, and Mile Akmadzic, Assistant Director and Chief of Protocol. During his stay, H. E. Juan Antonio Samaranch made an inspection, by car and by helicopter, of all the sites which will host the Olympic events next February. He declared himself very satisfied with the state of progress of the work on the different building sites, particularly the "Skenderija" sports and cultural centre, which will house the Press Centre and which will begin operations during the autumn of 1983. The presence of the IOC President co-incided with the start of a programme of sports competitions planned throughout the winter at Sarajevo.

During the evening of 14th December 1982, the President of the IOC carried out the opening of the "Zetra" sports complex which will host the figure skating and speed skating events at the XIVth Winter Games. A press sub-centre, with an electronic results system, will be fitted out for the representatives of the

international information media. The President then attended the short programme performed by the junior world couples figure skating champions and met the different representatives of the International Winter Sport Federations present on this occasion : Messrs Hermann Schiechl, vice-President of the International Skating Union, and Günther Sabetzki, President of the International Ice Hockey Federation.



*Mr. Samaranch and Mr. Mikulic.*

At a dinner given in his honour by Mr Branko Mikulic, President of the OCOG, in the presidential apartments of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, H. E. Juan Antonio Samaranch reaffirmed with conviction that *"the Games at Sarajevo will mark a milestone in the history of the Olympic Movement"*.

The IOC President also attended the signing of the contract between the OCOG and the Japanese Television Network, NHK (See page 113).

## Moscow

From 18th to 20th December, H. E. Juan Antonio Samaranch was in Moscow to meet with Messrs Constantin Andrianov and Vitaly Smirnov, members of the IOC, and Sergi Pavlov, then President of the NOC, and Alexander Sereda, Secretary General of the NOC. During his stay in Moscow, the IOC President presented the badges of the Olympic Order to the gymnasts Ludmila Turischova, Olympic Champion in 1972, and Elena Muk-



*Irina Rodnina offers her thanks.*

hina, World Champion in 1978. Confined to a wheelchair as a result of a tragic accident which occurred while she was training for the Games of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad, Elena Mukhina is fighting courageously to get back to normal life.

The President of the IOC was received in a private audience at the Kremlin by Messrs Geidar A. Aliev, 1st vice-President of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Vassili Kuznetsov, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. He visited the Central National Institute for Physical Education and Sport, and then proceeded to open the Olympic Games Museum and to present the Olympic Order to Mrs Irina Rodnina, the many times Olympic and World champion in the figure skating couples and now the national coach.

The IOC President followed with interest the conclusion of a seminar for ice hockey coaches, which had been organized in conjunction with Olympic Solidarity and the Soviet Olympic Committee, and then handed out the Olympic Solidarity diplomas to the participants who were successful in the final examinations of the seminar.

At an international ice hockey tournament organized by "Izvestia", H. E. Juan Antonio Samaranch gave a press conference for Moscow journalists. On the eve of his departure, the IOC President was guest of honour at

*H. E. Juan Antonio Samaranch made a special journey to Budapest to present Mr. Arpad Csanadi, IOC member in Hungary, and member of the IOC Executive Board, with a silver salver from all IOC members for his contribution to the Olympic Movement. Illness has prevented Mr. Csanadi. Honorary Sports Director of the IOC from attending the Executive Board meetings in Los Angeles, and all his many friends in the Olympic Family join in sending him best wishes for a very speedy recovery.*

a dinner given by the representatives of the NOC, during which the customary toasts were exchanged.

## The Caribbean

At the close of the Olympic meetings held at Los Angeles from 15th to 22nd January 1983, H. E. Juan Antonio Samaranch President of the IOC made an official visit to the Caribbean, visiting in succession the National Olympic Committees of Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, the Netherlands Antilles, Barbados, Antigua, the Virgin Islands, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas and Bermuda.

In each of these countries, he met with the representatives of the different NOCs to discuss the conclusions of the recent Olympic meetings and the situation within the Olympic Movement and he was received by the highest authorities.

In particular, he awarded the silver medal of the Olympic Order to Sir Gerald Cash, Governor General of the Bahamas and the bronze medal of the Olympic Order to Mr. Donald J. Williams, member of the Olympic Association of Bermuda.

Upon his return journey, on Monday 31st January, Mr. Samaranch held discussions with Mr. William E. Simon, President of the United States Olympic Committee.

During these travels, Mr. Samaranch was accompanied by Mr. Mario Vazquez Raria, President of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) and President of the Pan American Sports Organization (ODEPA) as well as by Prince Alexandre de Merode, member of the IOC Executive Board and Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission.

## Madrid

H. E. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, met Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, Prime Minister of Spain, in February, their discussions lasting more than three hours. The meeting took place in the Palace of Moncloa in Madrid, the official residence of the Spanish government, in the presence of Mr. Javier Solana, Minister of Culture, and Mr. Roma Cuyas, Secretary of State for sport.



*Mr. Felipe Gonzales and the President of the IOC.*

President Samaranch, above all, was concerned to establish the attitude of the new Spanish Government to the candidature of Barcelona for the organization of the Olympic Games of 1992. The Prime Minister reassured Mr Samaranch, and added an expression of his personal interest in the candidature. Mr Gonzalez added that the Games of 1992 in Barcelona could be one of three major expressions of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the "New World". Spain is considering celebrating this anniversary with a series of events in Madrid, and an exhibition in Seville. The Olympic Games held in Barcelona would be seen as completing the historic anniversary.