

Opening of the 86th Session

On the 25th March 1983 at Vigyan Bhavan, H.E. Mr. Giani Zail Singh, President of India, declared the 86th Session of the IOC open in the presence of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India. Mr. Sardar Buta Singh, Minister of Sport, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, Mrs. Monique Berlioux, Director of the IOC and an illustrious assembly comprised of 80 members of the IOC, their guests, Raja Bhalendra Singh and Air Vice Marshal C.L. Mehta, President and Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association, delegations of the Organising Committees for the Games for the XXIIIrd Olympiad in Los Angeles and the XIVth Winter Games in Sarajevo, and many personalities from the Indian sporting world.

Minister of Sport appealed to the IOC and IFs to come to the aid of the National Federations of the developing countries.

In his speech, the President of the IOC expressed his pleasure in New Delhi's candidature for the organisation of the Games of the XXVth Olympiad in 1992, recalling that its sporting facilities are among the best in the world. After a brief explanation of the future development of the Olympic movement, he invited the President of India to open the 86th Session.

H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch then presented Mrs. Indira Gandhi with the Gold Medal of the Olympic Order amidst thunderous applause and a burst of camera flashes.



Mrs. Samaranch congratulates the artists who participated in the opening ceremony.

Following the national hymn of India and the Olympic hymn, Raja Bhalendra Singh, President of the Indian Olympic Association, thanked the IOC for holding a Session in India for the first time, thus underlining the importance of sport, recognised by all and among these being the movement of non-aligned countries which had met two weeks previously in the same auditorium.

Mr. Sardar Buta Singh, Minister of Sport then took the chair to thank H.E. Mr. Samaranch for his concern to strengthen sporting links between the Continents, not only by attending the IXth Asian Games, but also by holding this 86th Session of the IOC in New Delhi. The

During her impromptu and charming speech, Mrs. Indira Gandhi said that this honour was a symbol merited rather by the youth of India.

This solemn event was followed by the taking of the oath by Mr. Ivan Dibos (PER), Mrs. Mary Alison Glen-Haig, (GBR) and Mr. Chiharu Igaya (JPN), the latest members of the IOC who were co-opted during the 85th Session.

The opening ceremony came to a close with a dazzling demonstration of the "tabla" and "mridangan", a beautiful interpretation on the "sarod" of the famous "Ustad Amjad Ali Khan" and, finally, with a gracious introduction to the classical Indian dance by Sonal Mansingh, a dancer of international repute.