Willi Daume 70

Federal Republic of Germany

- To celebrate his 70th birthday, representatives of sports and culture, politics and business, assembled in honour of Willi Daume. IOC Member in Germany since 1956, and President of the NOC of Germany. Some 250 high-ranking and illustrious guests accepted the invitation of the NOC to Bad Godesberg, the site of the celebration, only a few kilometres from the seat of government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Professor Karl Carstens, honoured Mr. Daume in his congratulatory address. Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl left his party congress in order to be present, as was former Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt.

In his speech on behalf of German Sport, Dr Weyer, President of the German Sports Federation, referred to the relationship of sport and art in Willi Daume’s work, as did Professor Reimar Lust, President of the renowned “Max-Planck-Gesellschaft” for the Advancement of Science, in a laudatory address. Pieces of music selected by Willi Daume himself, and performed by distinguished musicians provided the background for the celebration.

The gifts and congratulations offered by representatives from the ranks of present and former athletes provided an occasion for happy reunions and particularly reflected Willi Daume’s commitment to sporting youth. Michael Beckereit, the athletes’ speaker, presented their gift, a sonata which was performed by the composer, Michael Gees, himself. The gift of the NOC, bronze statuettes for Willi Daume’s collection, was presented by Olympic gold and silver medal winners, chosen for each Olympic Games in which Willi Daume has taken part.