

OLYMPAFRICA

The Olympafrica project was launched in 1988 on the initiative of the IOC President. It is a programme for the construction of centres to serve the expansion of Olympism; these offer young people opportunities in terms not only of sports activities but also of cultural, educational, social and economic activities, the idea being to contribute as much as possible to solving in a practical way the multitude of problems facing young people today. This programme is implemented at low cost in villages or run-down city districts, with the participation of the target populations.

Responsibility for implementing the project was entrusted to a young Senegalese architect, Ibrahima Mbaye, through the intermediary of Olympic Solidarity. The first project, christened the "Juan Antonio Samaranch Centre",

was inaugurated in February 1990 in the village of La Somone, 80 km from Dakar, by the IOC President and the Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor.

In September 1991, the 3rd General Assembly of the ANOCA meeting in Cairo (EGY), expressed the desire that a Foundation should be set up with the role of continuing and extending the Olympafrica programme in countries which already had pilot projects. As a result, the International Olympafrica Foundation (FINO/IOF) was set up in Lausanne on 23rd June 1993. Dr Un Yong Kim, IOC First Vice President, became the first President of the Foundation, and Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye, IOC member in Côte d'Ivoire, became President of the Executive Committee. Ibrahima Mbaye was appointed to the post of Executive Sec-

retary. To date, 20 projects have been launched in 19 countries in Africa.

After holding meetings in Paris, Monaco and Atlanta, the Foundation's Administrative Board chose Dakar, where the IOF has its permanent headquarters, as the venue for its fourth meeting under the auspices of the Senegalese government. The programme began with a visit to the La Somone centre, where the entire population of the village turned out to welcome the delegation in the best African tradition. The Senegalese national taekwondo and judo federations put on demonstrations in honour of Dr Kim and Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye. Senegalese wrestling was also on the programme, with demonstrations presented during breaks in the ceremony of official speeches. The meeting proper was opened by the Minister of Youth and Sports, Ousmane Paye. Among the items on the agenda were addresses by two potential partners on the themes "Areas and forms of action by the French cooperation mission" by Marie-Louise Avon, head of the Mission, and "The example of AGETIP", by Maguette Wade, Director General of this institution. The proceedings ended with consideration and adoption of the management reports.

The IOF delegation was then granted an audience with the Senegalese Head of State, Abdou Diouf, who is also an honorary member of the Foundation.

The participants, among them members of the IOC and the NOC, enjoyed an impeccably organized stay in Dakar, during which the Senegalese Prime Minister hosted a reception and Judge Kéba Mbaye a lunch rich in local tradition.

At the request of President Samaranch, the FINO meeting also benefited from administrative support from the IOC. The next meeting of the Foundation's Administrative Board is scheduled for late 1996.

Sylvie Espagnac



The FINO delegation after its audience with the Head of State of Senegal. Left to right, Prof. René Essomba, Lamine Diack, Lamine Keita, Dr Un Yang Kim, Judge Kéba Mbaye Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye, El Hadj Amadou Dia-Ba, Ousmane Paye, Alpha Ibrahim Diallo, Albaji Dandeb-Njie, Fékrou Kidane, Lamine Ba, Sylvie Espagnac.