

Portugal

The new headquarters of the Portuguese National Olympic Committee were officially inaugurated by the Portuguese President, Jorge Fernando Branco de Sampaio, in the presence of the IOC President, IOC member in Portugal Fernando Lima Bello, NOC President Jose Vicente Moura, and the chairman of the Lisbon city council, João Barroso Soares, along

with representatives of the Portuguese sports movement and several European and African NOCs. On this occasion, the IOC President awarded the Olympic Order to Rosa Mota, the first Portuguese woman to win an Olympic medal (bronze) in 1984 at the Games of the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles, and an Olympic champion four years later in Seoul.



The IOC President presenting the Olympic Order to Rosa Mota.

The environment

On the occasion of World Environment Day in June which, this year, was based on the theme: "2000 - *The Environment Millennium - Time to Act*", the NOCs of the Gambia and Togo responded to the IOC's call to "make the protection of the environment through sustainable development our daily practice".

For the fourth time, the Gambia NOC jointly organized with the National Environment Agency (NEA) a national clean-up exercise, which was widely covered by national television and radio. Between 9.00 a.m. and 12.30 p.m., schoolchildren, office workers, residents, market stallholders and street vendors,

cleaned-up various parts of the capital, Banjul. In the villages, trees were planted in areas threatened by drought, while the NEA launched operation "Save our Beaches": palm trees and coconut trees were thus planted on beaches. In Lomé, Togo, celebrations of Earth Day were officially started by the NOC Presi-

dent, Zoumaro Gnofame, who planted a young orange tree in the NOC gardens. Leaders of national federations along with around 30 athletes cleaned-up the gardens and the area around the NOC before planting some shrubs in front of the handball, volleyball and basketball courts.



The children of St Johns in Banjul clean-up their school.



Clearing work in the gardens of the Togo NOC.