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The celebration of the next Olympic Games in Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, is an event of such significance and such importance that it more than deserves the attention CATALÒNIA is devoting to it. Both the title of the publication and its international links through UNESCO-UNO bear this out.

The United Nations specialist organization, with its traditional sensibility to questions of culture, has, in the Centre Unesco de Catalunya, a lively and sensitive instrument, aware of the international situation and firmly rooted in the issues at stake in the country. Reflection and information on the Olympics from these two angles should prove extremely interesting, because of the two-way observation they make: the Olympics as seen by Catalonia and Catalonia as seen by the Olympics. The 1992 Olympic Games must help Barcelona become an active, hospitable world capital, one that is efficient and imaginative, open and faithful to itself. The Catalan government I preside has not hesitated in its enthusiastic collaboration, because we believe that this effort can be positive for the whole of Catalan society. Barcelona's success must be Catalonia's success, because this success will only be real if Barcelona, as organizer of the Games, does not for one moment renounce its condition as cap i casal, as past and present capital of Catalonia. No doubt the work of CATALÒNIA is directed to the same end, and for this reason, I am only too happy to contribute with these words of support and congratulation. May the magazine's pages be a step along the path to clarity and authenticity. And may they be another grain of sand which, along with all the others —because many are needed and no contribution can be too small— will help towards the construction of the Olympic reality of 1992, which, if it is worthy of Barcelona, will be Catalonia's best presentation before the world.

Jordi Pujol
President of the Generalitat de Catalunya



The city of Barcelona has always been open to the world. Going back in history, we see it arise as a stopping off place for Greeks, Romans, Visigoths, Arabs, and a mass of other visitors who have all left their mark there. Barcelona is an example of a city in the broadest sense of the word: a market for ideas and cultures, an open forum for debate, a meeting-place and one of co-existence, a stimulating environment for creation and for the birth of avant-gardes.

It is this unique combination that makes it an ideal place in which to hold an international event of such magnitude as the Olympic Games. The harmonious gathering of races for sport, added to this civic spirit, turn our date with 1992 into a great challenge. Barcelona intends to retrieve the old, humanistic ideals of the Hellenic Games, at the same time as we return the Olympics to their birthplace in the Mediterranean.

Alongside the preparation for the Games, Barcelona will go through an important period marked by the Cultural Olympiad: a springboard which will reinforce the international projection of the city beyond 1992.

With the Olympic Games, our city will offer the international community a debating platform which will transcend borders and national conflicts and reinforce the role of civility in the most classical sense of the word. That is to say, as the creation of cultural patterns and models of co-existence that normally arise from urban concentrations such as Barcelona.

Pasqual Maragall
Mayor of Barcelona and President of the COOB'92



In 1992, after many years, the Olympic Games return to the Mediterranean. The same sea and the same climate that surrounded the Games in classical times will give an especially attractive flavour to the Barcelona Games.

Also, 1992 is an important date on the international scene. Europe will be well on the way towards unity, and the Olympic movement, holding the winter Games in Albertville and the summer Games in Barcelona, will help to make 1992 a particularly important year for the Old Continent.

My links with Barcelona make me hope for the best Olympic Games of all time, the organizers' ability gives me faith in the success of the event, and the tenacity and determination of the people of Barcelona dispel any possible doubt as to the splendour and the human warmth of the Games of the XXV Olympiad.

Joan Antoni Samaranch

President of the International Olympic Committee



As a regular reader of CATALÒNIA since the earliest editions, I would like to congratulate the director and the editorial staff for the quality of the presentation and of the articles published.

In my two-fold capacity as a Catalan and as Director General of UNESCO, I applaud the decision to devote a special issue to the Olympic Games to be celebrated in Barcelona in 1992.

Physical education and sport, one of the essential dimensions of education and culture, form a natural part of the activities of UNESCO. As well as the creation of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS), responsible for guiding and watching over the physical education and sports programmes and for contributing to international co-operation, and apart from the International Fund for the Development of Physical Education and Sport (FIDEPS), whose job it is to ensure the application of the International Charter for Physical Education and Sport adopted by the UNESCO General Meeting in 1978, UNESCO and the International Olympic Committee signed a joint co-operation memorandum in 1984, aimed at the establishment of common projects for the promotion of sport in the developing countries.

This collaboration between UNESCO and the Olympic movement is vital now that sport is increasingly seen as a global concept which encompasses all forms of physical activity, from basic physical education to top level competition, of which the Olympic Games are the maximum exponent. Meeting in Moscow in November 1988, the second Congress of ministers and government officials responsible for physical education and sport recommended that "the Olympic Games and other great international sporting events be protected, to ensure that they remain faithful, in their preparation, organization and execution, to the principles proclaimed in the International Charter for Physical Education and Sport and in the Olympic Charter, which are founded on a profoundly humanist conception of sport". In the belief that the Olympic Games form part of mankind's cultural heritage, UNESCO and the Olympic Movement have decided to put all their effort into guaranteeing their universality. The two organizations will also study the possibility of creating an international instrument against doping, which, like other abuses, threatens to harm the image and the ethics of sport.

The outlook is good for the coming Olympic Games in Barcelona, and I am convinced they will be a landmark in the glorious history of the Olympic Games, as well as a brilliant reaffirmation of the ideals that inspired the rebirth of the Games.

Federico Mayor

Director-General of UNESCO