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**4. — Speech of the President at the Meeting of the Session**

Mr. President Gentlemen - I am deeply touched by the most kind welcome which you have offered to the members of the International Olympic Committee who on their part have had very great pleasure in accepting the invitation to hold in Lisbon their meeting of 1926, the more so as this invitation has been transmitted to us by our dear colleague, Count de Penha Garcia whose high capacity and devotion we have so long admired.

I offer my very sincere thanks to the President of the Portuguese Republic who has honoured this meeting with his presence. The words which he has spoken come with the double authority of his high social position and of his universally recognised competence in the domain of science, and especially the science of education.

To the President of the Municipal Council, who has made for himself a name in the domains of Poor Relief and Public Health, I offer my homage and that of my colleagues and thereby express also our gratitude to the city of Lisbon.

The name of the capital of Portugal will live in the annals of the International Olympic Committee as the names of Paris, Lausanne, Rome and Prague because of the importance of the decisions which we are, this year, called upon to take.

I will not conceal from you the value which we attach to the judgment which we have just heard pronounced on the work accomplished by the International Olympic Committee since its foundation.

If we were left to our own judgment we might exaggerate the results which have been achieved. This possibility of error is now set aside. To what then is the result due? To our personal value? The critics are so numerous who seek to prove the contrary that we are bound to think that we owe it to the method by which the Committee is recruited — to its permanence — to the absolute independence of opinion of its members, and to the absence of intrigues which are inherent in the elective system.

This will tell you how deeply we are attached to it and how cautions we must be in dealing with our foundation charter.

On the other hand we recognise how right Baron de Coubertin was in handing over to the International Federations the control of the technical side of the competitions because we recognise the advantages of closer collaboration with those younger and more active elements which are always to supply new ideas, ideas which would gain by being fused in the Olympic crucible with our old principles. We shall study the wish expressed by the International Federations with the keenest desire to find a solution.

We must however beware of the rhetoricians who are all talk ending in nothing and seek rather to call into existence a working organisation able to fit for the Modern Games a definite programme at once sportsmanlike and practical.

Such is the heritage which my eminent predecessor has bequeathed to us, and the greatest homage which his former colleagues is conjunction with sportsmen of every race and class can render him is to combine to lead along the road of progress the child which he brought into the world, and

which to-day is able to walk alone — with a giant's stride.

Look where you will, you will see proofs of its activity, Fired by the Olympic ideal the Republics of Central America will, this October, inaugurate the cycle of their Games in the hope of having by 1932 athletes capable of facing the struggle of Los Angeles. Encouraged by the brilliant success of the Games of Chamonix the eager experts in winter sports have, on their side, determined to celebrate in future the return of each Olympiad.

It is a great joy to me to take this first opportunity which has presented itself since the congress of Prague, to express to them our delight at being able to count among our Olympic sports these sports which call not only for expenditure of great strength and skill but also for so much courage and endurance.

Whence better than from Lisbon, the last European port from which travellers sail for Latin America, would we address to the pioneers of Rio de Janeiro and Mexico the expression of our admiration and gratitude.

I will not trespass further on your attention and thereby hinder my colleagues from visiting your beautiful city. I do not forget that time must be left them to admire Belem, Cintra, the banks of the Tagus with their perennial charm, in a word, all the beauties with which nature and art have combined to adorn your beautiful city.

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## 5. — Minutes of the Session of the I. O. C. at Lisbon

May 1926

### Morning meeting - May 3rd.

The International Olympic Committee met at 10 a.m at the Camera Municipal.

The President in opening the meeting paid tribute to the great work of Baron Coubertin to whom a telegram of gratitude has been sent as well as a souvenir presented to him by his colleagues.

The Committee then presented to the French Delegates an address bearing the signatures of the members of the International Olympic Committee recalling their devoted efforts on behalf of the Games of the VIIIth Olympiad.

The Committee having decided that it should be represented by a delegate in Latvia and by a third delegate in Germany, elected respectively to the International Olympic Committee, Mr. J. Dikmans, President of the Latvian Olympic Committee and Duke Adolph Frederick of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

General Sherrill (U.S.A.) was appointed to the Executive Committee.

The Committee considered the desire expressed by the International Federations.

### Afternoon Meeting - May 3rd.

The Committee continued to study the request of the International Federations.

### Morning Meeting - May 4th.

The International Olympic Committee having heard the statement made by the representatives of MM. Cazalet and Nerman decided that the International Gymnastic Federation

alone shall be recognised for gymnastic competitions. On the other hand considering that it is desirable to permit and to promote during the Olympic Games such displays as are calculated to exhibit the value of different systems of gymnastic instruction, the I.O.C. decided to receive direct entries from groupes qualified to offer such displays and to transmit them for its use to the Committee organizing the Games.

After a very long discussion the International Olympic Committee, by a vote which was unanimous, with the exception of two members, (Marquis de Polignac and Count Bonacossa), expressed its regret at being unable to carry out the wish expressed by the International Federations at Prague, a wish which was explained in detail by M. Gaston Vidal, their representative, at the Executive Committee Meeting held in Paris, November 1925.

Earnestly desiring, however to establish a closer connection, of which it recognizes the utility and even the necessity with the International Federations, the International Olympic Committee decided that:

«Members of the Executive Committee are qualified to consider the non-technical questions of a general nature submitted to them by the International Federations and to recommend to the International Olympic Committee the decisions to be taken».

This decision shall take effect immediately in accordance with the powers of the Committee to charge the Executive Committee to carry out any mandate which it thinks necessary to entrust to it.

But in order that this arrangement may be added to Article 9 of the Statutes the President was asked to communicate it to those members who were absent so as to obtain the quorum necessary to give this addition to the Statutes, the force of law.

The Dutch Minister offered to the International Olympic Committee his warmest wishes for the success of its work He expressed the deep satisfaction of his countrymen in the fact that the next Games are to be celebrated at Amsterdam.

The President of the International Olympic Committee requested the Dutch Minister to convey to Her Majesty the Queen the homage of the members of the International Olympic Committee.

Following on a request for a reduction in the cost of transport of athletes and officials taking part in the Olympic Games, addressed to the International Union of Railways, the President has received a reply informing him in view of the importance of the Games and of the International Olympic Committee the request had not been put aside and that a decision would be made in October.

The President stated the conditions under which the Olympic Museum and the Secretariat are now installed at Lausanne. The cost of the installation was borne by the town of Lausanne which has voted the necessary credits to his effect. It was decided that a letter of thanks should be sent to the Syndic of Lausanne in recognition of this kind action.

### Afternoon Meeting - May 4th.

The I. O. C. received from Baron Schimmelpenninck, with his comments upon it the report on the preparations and organisation for the Games of the IXth Olympiad (Amsterdam 1928).

After exchanging views on different points, the International Olympic Committee having expressed the wish that the Stadium should have a straight track of 200 meters, requested the Dutch Committee to discuss this question, which is of a technical nature, with the International Athletic Federation.