

Londons Gastfreundschaft war über alles Lob erhaben, ein würdiges Gegenstück zu den unvergeßlichen Tagen auf dem Nil. Von der zwanglosen Gesellschaft bei Lord Portal an bis zum Staatsdiner des englischen Außenamtes, dem Viscount Halifax und Sir Robert Vansittart präsierten, war die Tagung in eine Atmosphäre der Gastfreundschaft eingebettet. Die großartige Vorführung des Tattoo in Aldershot zeigte nicht nur eine gewaltige Schau, sondern in ihr auch eine schwungvolle Körperkultur des englischen Soldaten, dessen gesunde Kraft wir bewundern konnten, und die Stunden im Empire Pool zu Wembley brachten die Meister des Kunstlaufs, Cecilia Colledge und Graham-Sharp, aber auch eine Reihe tüchtiger Junioren bis zur sechsjährigen Jennifer Nicks, die zu den besten Hoffnungen berechtigten.

Über allem waltete die sichere Hand des Organisators Hunter, die liebenswürdige Fürsorge von Lord Portal und die sorgende Kameradschaft der drei IOK-Mitglieder Lord Aberdare, Lord Burghley und Sir Noel Curtis Bennett.

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Zwei Dinge seien an den Schluß gestellt. Das Englische Olympische Komitee hatte den guten Gedanken gehabt, zum Festmahl zu Ehren der Tagung auch die englischen Olympiasieger einzuladen, soweit sie nicht wie A. E. Porritt und Lord Burghley sowieso Mitglieder des IOK waren. Unter den olympischen Siegern befanden sich Vater und Sohn: J. Beresford, der bei der Feier der V. Olympiade Stockholm 1912 im Vierer ohne Steuermann saß und die silberne Medaille errang, sein Sohn Jack wurde in Antwerpen 1920, in Paris 1924, in Amsterdam 1928, in Los Angeles 1932 und in Berlin 1936 dreimal Erster und zweimal Zweiter. Außer den beiden gibt es wohl nur noch Vater und Sohn Järvinen (Finnland), die olympische Siegesehren tragen. Jedenfalls ein stolzes Gefühl, wenn sich die Kraft einer Nation in der Folge von Generationen hoher Leistung ausdrückt. Ein zweites: den Abschluß der Tagung bildete die Festaufführung „Women's League of Health and Beauty“ im Wembley-Stadion. An die sieben-tausend Mädchen und Frauen zeigten Gymnastik und Tanz, eine Symphonie der Schönheit und Kraft. Fröhlich ausgedacht, schwelgend in Musik und Licht, wirbelten und sprangen und warfen die schönen Gestalten ihre Übungen, und so war es für alle eine Augenweide. Der Leiterin und Sprecherin Prunella Douglas-Hamilton, der gymnastischen Welt unter ihrem Mädchennamen Stack wohlbekannt, seien die herzlichsten Glückwünsche dargebracht. Ihr Werk und die beiden — Vater und Sohn — sind Gewähr für die Zukunft. Über ein schönes Fest 1940 in Helsinki zu einem schönen Fest 1944 in London!

The London Decision

by Carl Diem

Fifth Olympic Winter Games, 1940 Garmisch-Partenkirchen
 Sixth Olympic Winter Games, 1944 Cortina-d'Ampezzo
 Thirteenth Olympic Games, 1944 London
 Olympic Diploma, 1940 Louis Hostin (France) and Leni Riefenstahl (Germany)
 Olympic Cup, 1940 Union of Swedish Sporting Federations

What is the significance of these decisions? The President of the International Olympic Committee, Gount Baillet-Latour, whose opinions are certainly deserving of world consideration, declared in his concluding address that the decisions were those of sportsmen:

They are entirely free of political influence.

We may consider ourselves fortunate to be able to participate in and support a mission which is detached from the natural tensions among nations and serves in an undeviating manner a common ideal. The London decisions were considered and drawn up within the sphere of Olympic friendship. There were no victors or vanquished, but only friends and comrades mutually engaged in the Olympic task.

This attractive truth is illuminated in a dazzling manner by two incidents : When Count Bonacossa displayed the extensive and impressive plans which had been drawn up for the proposed Olympic constructions in Rome, Lord Burghley, who submitted the London application for the Games, sprang to his side in order to assist him, and when in the course of the meeting the Olympic Diploma for 1940 was presented to the Frenchman, Louis Hostin, Avery Brundage, the representative of a nation in which it was not possible to show the Olympic film of 1936, proposed that a second Olympic Diploma be presented to Leni Riefenstahl, and the two French members who were present at the meeting, Marquis de Polignac and François Pietri, seconded this motion, expressing at the same time their hearty approval.

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A second result of the meeting: The Olympic ideal progresses.

The contest for the honour of presenting the Olympic Games becomes closer each time. New applicants present their request for the permission to organize the Games, and those who have already had this honour are willing to assume the obligations anew.

Intense interest attended the speeches of the different delegates who wished to obtain the next Olympic Festival for their cities. The prospect of success awakened hopes throughout the world. New citadels of sport come into being, whose influence is permanent and which in their greatness and beauty are capable of elevating sport a step higher in the realm of culture.

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It was this spirit of willingness that enabled the International Olympic Committee to solve a difficulty which threatened the uninterrupted sequence of the Winter Games.

One fact remains incontrovertible: Olympic Games are festivals based upon sacredly observed tradition. Their permanence, their regular recurrence — with astronomic exactness, as Coubertin once expressed it — lends them their prestige.

The sporting world and every single sport in it—winter sports and summer sports — have the right to claim the reviving power of Olympic sanctification at regular fixed intervals.

For this reason, the International Olympic Committee upholds in a most rigid manner the principles governing the presentation of an Olympic Festival.

In the case of the Winter Games of 1940, the following situation arose:

The International Skiing Federation refused to accept the Olympic Amateur regulations for the Games of 1940 and declined to cooperate with the Committee.

The International Olympic Committee held firmly to its own regulations:

Firstly, that every international sporting federation may regulate its amateur question according to its own judgment and shall reserve the exclusive right to decide who shall participate in its competitions. Those desiring to participate in the Olympic Games, however, must comply with the Olympic minimum demands which apply to all sports. These are stipulated by the International Olympic Committee.

Secondly, the international sporting federations maintain the technical supervision in their field of sport. After the "FIS" had declined, no attempt was made to organize competitions without its approval, although this would have been an easy matter, Nor, on the other hand, should skiing be dropped from the Olympic programme, which is again the affair of the International Olympic Committee, because of all winter sports, skiing is the most popular. It is a genuine amateur sport and one which certainly belongs to the Olympic programme. It was therefore resolved to include skiing in the Olympic programme in the form of a demonstration, which would be limited to a military patrol race, jumping competitions and slalom race.

Under these conditions the Games were allotted to Sapporo, and when Japan was compelled to relinquish them, they were awarded to St. Moritz under the same conditions and with special attention called to these demonstration events. The Swiss Olympic Committee accepted the Games under the prevailing conditions, and the first programme of the St. Moritz Festival included skiing "demonstrations".

Then unexpectedly and without the knowledge of the International Olympic Committee, the Swiss Olympic Committee decided shortly before the London meeting not to observe the earlier arrangement and to eliminate the skiing demonstrations from the programme.

The International Olympic Committee faced the consequences of this decision. Switzerland voluntarily declined to fulfil the mission under the conditions upon which it had been granted. The International Olympic Committee then set about to ascertain whether it was still possible to hold the Games under the established conditions. The German Olympic Committee declared itself willing to assume the task because the Olympic facilities in Garmisch were ready for immediate usage and an experienced organizing staff could be easily reassembled.

The International Olympic Committee then allotted the Games to the same town that had presented them in 1936, and with the authorization of the Reich Sport Leader and on behalf of the German Olympic Committee, Dr. von Halt accepted them.

These are de facts of the case. They imply no criticism of any of the decisions. In them, however, is embodied the wish and the determination to secure the Olympic Games in their historical sequence.

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The International Olympic Committee upholds Olympic independence. It regards Olympic friendship as the impelling directive force in all negotiations, but in cases of controversy an understanding favouring the Olympic cause must be found. Disagreements over decisions may arise, but all such differences of opinion should be carried on in a manner which is free from all personal feeling and prejudice, and should conform with the dignity and inviolability of the Olympic ideal.

These few remarks will suffice as an answer to certain articles which have appeared in various organs.

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The celebration of the Twelfth Olympiad in Helsinki was accorded principal consideration. The excellent reports which the two Finnish members, Rangell and Krogius, and the two representatives of the Secretariate, Secretary-General Karikoski and his deputy, Mr. Miettinen, delivered provided adequate proof of the thorough preparation which is being made in the Finnish capital. Decisions were also made regarding the games not selected by Finland, namely hockey, handball and basketball, as well as the team competition in women's gymnastics. Finland had accepted the Games in July, 1938 on the condition that, in view of the short time available for preparation, the programme should be limited to the compulsory events. After members of the Fish Olympic Committee had declared that the difficulties involved in adding these events to the programme could not be overcome and had referred in this connection to the aforesaid agreement, the International Olympic Committee gave its reluctant consent. The Helsinki representatives agreed in response to the request of Count Zamoyski to reconsider the question pertaining to the introduction of women's gymnastics.

The International Olympic Committee then came to a decision of fundamental significance: It authorized the Executive Committee to examine the existing programme and its division into obligatory and voluntary events in the light of sporting development and to make proposals.

In this connection the question of feminine participation will also be reconsidered.

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The organization of an Olympic relay covering the route of 1936 from Olympia to Berlin and from there to Helsinki over a route to be selected was agreed upon by the Finnish Organizing Committee in compliance with a wish of the International Olympic Committee. The Olympic Fire will be borne to Helsinki in this manner. The countries which will be crossed in the relay have already granted their permission, and the Fire, passed from hand to hand over a distance of 5000 kilometres, will summon the youth to serve this high ideal without expectation of reward or fame.

In 1940 the Fire will be carried to the North, and in 1944 its direction will be to the North-West. Thus the Olympic flame will radiate throughout the ages and continents of the world in a more literal sense than was originally intended.

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Angelo C. Bolanachi announced the decision of the Greek Olympic Committee to found an "Olympic Academy" in Olympia. The first courses in the Academy are to be held as soon as the German archaeologists have uncovered the ancient stadium and every country will be invited to send students. The practical and theoretical instruction will be held in the Sacred Grove and the other ancient sites, and the participants, like the competitors of old, will dwell in tents at the foot of Mount Kronos and live according to Spartan principles. Greece intends to invite outstanding authorities from throughout the world as instructors and the courses will be limited to the most favourable spring months. The International Olympic Committee decided unanimously to accept the

patronage over the Olympic Academy. An idea which originated with the interment of the heart of Coubertin in Olympia thus finds its fulfilment. The youth of the world will assemble at this sacred site for mutual study and will in this manner contribute towards infusing the public opinion of the future with the Olympic spirit.

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The "Olympic Review" was praised by M. François Piétri, who expressed the friendly acknowledgement of the Committee members. The editorial staff was thus inspired to further efforts in the service of the Olympic ideal.

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Lausanne, as the site of the Olympic Museum and of the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee, plays a prominent role in the Olympic work. The application presented in so charming a manner by M. Addor on behalf of his town for the Olympic Games of 1944 stood under the shadow of the latest occurrences. Count Baillet-Latour expressed, however, the decision to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the International Olympic Committee in an appropriate manner, and Lausanne will have the privilege of presenting this event.

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The Festival of 1944 celebrating the Thirteenth Olympiad will be held in London, which was also the site of the Olympic Games of 1908. At that time London accepted the Festival with scarcely more than a year's notice when Rome, which had been originally authorized to present the Games, was obliged to relinquish them. It was just 30 years later that Helsinki came to the support of the Olympic ideal in a no less courageous and loyal manner. In 1908 London was compelled to complete her preparations in a short period of time, but before 1944 she will have ample time at her disposal. The memorandum which was presented at the meeting refers with justifiable pride to the attractive facilities and adequate accommodations of this metropolitan city. The prospect of free transportation in England for all participants was generously put forward. The time at disposal for preparation will be profitably utilized because the site of the Olympic Games must have a festive character and in its architectural beauty and attractiveness of its surroundings it should conform with the high standard demanded by this festival of the nations. Whereas Helsinki is handicapped by the conditions of a relatively small town, London is faced with the gigantic difficulties of an almost too large city. It is the largest in the world and thus the difficulties but also the means of solving them are the greatest in the world. In view of the fact that the Games have been allotted five years in advance, London will not fail to create an Olympic centre which is as magnificent as its wealth, as sporting in its atmosphere as the attitude of its people, and as permeated with the Olympic spirit as the antique treasures which the British Museum contains and which the English thirst for knowledge has caused to be investigated to their very depth.

It is not sufficient for the English sportsmen to share the Olympic ideal, but the entire city and in fact, all of England must be imbued with it. The English press will also contribute its fullest cooperation to the future Olympic task, as it was not quite the case during the Congress. London's hospitality exceeded all praise; it provided a worthy counterpart to the unforgettable days on the Nile. From the charming social gathering arranged by Lord Portal to the official banquet tendered by the British Foreign Office at which Viscount Halifax and Sir Robert Vansittart presided, the Congress was pervaded by an atmosphere of hospitality. The magnificent Aldershot Tattoo was not merely an impressive spectacle but also revealed the spirited physical culture of the English soldier, whose healthy strength excited our admiration. And the hours spent at the Empire Pool in Wembley were filled by exhibitions of the ice skating champions, Cecilia Colledge and Graham Sharp, as well as a number of capable junior skaters including six years old Jennifer Nicks, whose performance justifies the highest hopes for her future.

Particularly outstanding was the capable management of the Organizing Secretary, Mr. Hunter, the charming hospitality of Lord Portal and the comradely interest of the three International Olympic Committee members, Lord Aberdare, Lord Burghley and Sir Noel Curtis Bennett.

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Two items have been reserved for final comment. The English Olympic Committee appropriately arranged to have the English Olympic victors present at the festive dinner, in so far as these were not, like A. E. Perritt and Lord Burghley, already members of the International Olympic Committee. Among the Olympic victors were a father and son, J. Beresford, who at the Fifth Olympic Games in Stockholm, 1912, won the silver medal in the race of the fours without coxswain, and his son, Jack, who in Antwerp, 1920, in Paris, 1924, in Amsterdam, 1928, in Los Angeles, 1932, and in Berlin, 1936 won three gold and two silver medals. In addition to them, there is certainly but one other case of father and son Olympic victors, the Jarvinen family in Finland. A nation

may well be proud when its strength is expressed through outstanding achievements from generation to generation.

A second feature particularly deserving of mention was the festive presentation of the Women's League of Health and Beauty in Wembley Stadium, which formed the conclusion to the Congress. About 7000 girls and women performed gymnastics and dances — a symphony of beauty and health. Cay in its planning, abounding in music and life, the attractive performance was filled with whirling, leaping and dancing figures — a joyous sight for all present.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to the directress and spokesman, Prunella Douglas-Hamilton, who is well known to the gymnastic world under her maiden name, Stack.

Her work and the two generations of Olympic victors are guarantees for the future.

From a successful festival in Helsinki on to a memorable celebration in London!

La décision de Londres

Par Carl Diem

Ves Jeux Olympiques d'hiver 1940 . . Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Vles Jeux Olympiques d'hiver 1944 . . Cortina d'Ampezzo

XIIIe Olympiade 1944: Londres

Diplôme olympique 1946: Louis Hostin (France) et Leni Riefenstahl (Allemagne)

Coupe olympique 1940 Union des Fédérations sportives suédoises.

L'importance de ces décisions:

Le Président du Comité International Olympique, Monsieur le Comte de Baillet-Latour, a souligné dans son discours de clôture et cela mérite un hommage universel: ces décisions sont l'expression d'un cœur sportif — elles sont absolument libres de toutes considerations politiques!

Estimons-nous heureux d'être les possesseurs et les gardiens d'une tâche qui se libère des tensions naturelles entre les peuples et sert loyalement l'idéal commun. Les décisions de Londres ont été discutées et prises sous le signe de l'amitié olympique. Il n'y eut donc ni vainqueur ni vaincu mais uniquement des amis et frères d'armes pour l'œuvre olympique.

Deux événements mettent cette belle vérité en relief: lorsque le Comte Bonacossa présenta les plans impressionnants préparés en vue des constructions olympiques envisagées à Rome, Lord Burghley, qui représentait l'invitation pour la ville de Londres, se leva d'un bond et se porta auprès de lui pour l'aider; lorsqu'au cours de la séance le diplôme olympique fut décerné pour l'année 1940 au champion olympique français Louis Hostin, Avery Brundage, c'est-à-dire le représentant d'un pays où il n'est pas possible de présenter le film de l'olympiade de 1936, demanda au CIO de distinguer Leni Riefenstahl en lui déférant un deuxième diplôme olympique et les deux représentants français présents, le Marquis de Polignac et François Piétri, appuyèrent sa demande avec beaucoup d'empressement.

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Le deuxième résultat de la session: l'idée olympique marche victorieusement!

On assiste chaque fois à une lutte de plus en plus âpre pour l'honneur d'être le représentant du travail olympique. Chaque fois, de nouveaux compétiteurs se lèvent et demandent l'honneur de réaliser les Jeux et les anciens également qui les ont déjà organisés une fois se tiennent à nouveau prêts.

Ce fut très impressionnant d'entendre les représentants des villes qui auraient aimé voir les prochains Jeux se dérouler dans leurs murs. L'espoir de cette possibilité éveilla l'esprit d'entreprise partout dans le monde. De nouveaux bastions des sports se forment, dont la valeur se maintiendra pour tous les temps, dont la grandeur et la beauté sont susceptibles de rehausser d'un degré dans le domaine culturel la pratique des sports.

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Conformément à cela il a aussi été possible au Comité International Olympique de parer à une difficulté qui menaçait le déroulement ininterrompu des Jeux olympiques d'hiver.

Une chose avant tout: Les Jeux Olympiques constituent une fête de tradition sacrée. Leur caractère constant, leur retour régulier — avec une précision astronomique, comme Coubertin s'exprima un jour — sont l'expression de leur dignité.