

## Mr. Edström's speech

of welcome at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee together with representatives of the international sports federations, at London, on 26th July 1948.

*Representatives of the International Sports Federations.*

*Dear Friends,*

*I extend to you a most hearty welcome to this meeting. Here are today only the representatives for the International Sports taking part in the Olympic Games of London.*

*As a number of International Federations co-operating with the International Committee are not represented here today, we can only discuss problems that concern the Olympic Games of London. As the time is very short, I should also like to ask you to be as brief as possible and not to speak about private matters that concern only your own Federation.*

*I am happy to see today many representatives who took part in the two important meetings at Lausanne, in 1946, and at Stockholm, in 1947.*

*After my appointment as President of the International Olympic Committee I have made it a point to have a more intimate co-operation with the International Sports Federations than before, and at the two meetings I mentioned, we laid a foundation for such co-operation.*

*But I must also remind you of the fact that, during the years when the organisation of the Olympic Movement was carried out, intimate co-operation took place with you. I remember well the International Olympic Meeting at Lausanne in 1921, when the President of the International Olympic Committee*

*at that time, Pierre de Coubertin, appointed me to lead the proceedings. It is a great pleasure today to see, at my sides, the two Secretaries that were appointed at this Congress, Mr. Seeldrayers and Mr. Scharroo. At that time, they were representatives of the International Sports Federations. Today they are ordinary members of the International Olympic Committee.*

*I also wish to remind you of the important Congress at Prague in 1923, when I also had the pleasure of presiding over the meeting.*

*At both these Congresses, it was decided that all the technical details and the organisation of the sports themselves should be put in the hands of the International Sports Federations. This was an important, fundamental action, and it has, during the years, proved very successful.*

*It has been a great pleasure for me, and for my colleagues of the International Olympic Committee, to co-operate with the International Federations, and I hope that pleasant work will continue.*

*If there are any slight mistakes in the organisation of the Olympic Games at London, I ask you to have patience with our British friends. I am sure they will do all they can to correct their mistakes and to help you.*

*With these words, Gentlemen, I now open the Meeting. We shall proceed with our work.*

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