

**Report of Commission appointed by the I. O. C. at its meeting in Copenhagen in 1950  
to study conditions in Latin America**

The growth of interest in amateur sport in Latin America during the last twenty-five years is hard to realize unless one has made a recent visit to the countries constituting this section of the world, comprising a score of nations plus half a dozen colonies all of which are very active in this field. Before the Games of the VIII Olympiad in Paris in 1924, there was little or no interest in Olympic affairs in Latin American countries. Stimulated by the visit of Count Baillet Latour about thirty years ago and the appointment of members of the I. O. C. in a few countries, however, interest has grown and expanded until in 1948 fourteen Latin American countries sent teams to the Games of the XIV Olympiad in London.

The Primeros Juegos Deportivos Pan-americanos, with about 2 000 athletes from twenty different countries competing in a score of different sports, were successfully staged in Buenos-Aires this Spring. The II Pan-American Games will be held in Mexico City in 1955 and new facilities of Olympic caliber are already under construction. Six sets of Central American Games have been held with about fifteen countries participating. Little Guatemala with a population of only three or four million, built at a cost of \$ 12 000 000. — a complete set of well arranged Olympic facilities for the VI Juegos Deportivos Centro-americanos y del Caribe in 1950. The next Central American Games are to be staged in Panama, a small country of less than a million inhabitants but with adequate facilities. Caracas, Venezuela, is staging the Bolivarian Games for the Countries liberated by the great South American patriot Simon Bolivar, later this year. These games have been held several times. South American championships have been held in many sports over a long period of years. In Lima, Peru, they are presently building a new stadium and other facilities of Olympic caliber. Cuba, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, and other countries in South America have fine facilities and many active clubs with thousands of members. World's record holders have been produced by small countries, like Jamaica and Panama. Little Haiti produced an Olympic winner over twenty-five years ago. In 1948 Mexico won the classic Prix des Nations in London. Two of the last three Olympic marathon winners have come from the Argentine. The small Republica Oriental del Uruguay won the world's soccer

football championships last year before 210 000 spectators in the largest stadium ever built. Last year also the world's basketball and shooting championships were decided in Buenos-Aires.

All the Latin American members of the I. O. C. who were present in Buenos Aires met with the Committee which was appointed in Copenhagen last year to study Latin American affairs. They agreed unanimously that the connection between the International Olympic Committee and Latin America was very weak and they felt that something must be done immediately to strengthen this connection in order to avoid serious difficulties in the future.

Having started this tremendous surge of activity, it is a responsibility of the I. O. C. to direct it into proper channels. It is essential, in their opinion, that members of the I. O. C. be appointed in as many Latin American countries as possible at an early date (of the 19 countries only 8 have members of the I. O. C. — the colonies have no members). The members present were divided into several groups, which were asked to search for suitable candidates.

They felt that something must be done at once to steer the Central American and Pan-American Games in the right direction and to stop violations of Olympic principles which have occurred and which will probably become more flagrant if something is not done promptly (a recommended rule to be adopted by the I. O. C. is attached to this report. If this rule is adopted it is recommended that the I. O. C. member, a special representative who must be made a member of the N. O. C. to be certain that the new regulation is followed.)

Because practically all of the meetings of the I. O. C. are held in Europe and because of the considerable expense and time required to travel from South America, our South-American members feel that they are stepchildren. They have an intense interest in the Olympic movement and the I. O. C., and they feel that when they are not present they should be permitted to vote by mail on all important questions.

The view was expressed that the possibility of having at least two members in remote countries should be considered so that they might attend meetings alternate years. It was also suggested that I. O. C. meetings might be held outside Europe.

Because practically all amateur sport in Latin American countries must be financed by the Government with consequent danger of political interference, it is recommended that the I. O. C. immediately initiate a campaign of education to assist the National Olympic Committees in this area. Governmental bodies should be informed that it is quite proper for them to control

*(Suite de la page précédente.)*

tales doivent savoir que le contrôle de l'éducation physique, dans les écoles et le pays, leur est réservé, mais que la direction du mouvement olympique amateur et des compétitions sportives qui s'y rattachent doit rester le fait des fédérations nationales et des comités olympiques nationaux, qui doivent être indépendants et autonomes.

physical education, health programmes and physical training in the schools and through the country but that the direction of amateur competitive sport should rest in the National Federations and in the National Olympic Committees, which must be free, independent and autonomous.

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