

About Art Competitions in the Olympic Games

The Group of Swiss Artists for the Olympic Games expresses its displeasure

The Swiss Olympic Committee lodged a complaint with the I. O. C., protesting against the « Art Competitions » being cancelled and objecting to these being replaced by only an « Exhibition » at the Games of Helsinki. It appointed the Swiss Group of Artists to go into this matter and submit its solution of the problem. To this effect this group held a meeting at Zurich last month and agreed upon the following decisions which were submitted to the Swiss Olympic Committee.

1. The Helsinki' set of Rules derives its origin from the London one and is an integral replica of it. The only modification made to it is that « Art competitions » have been replaced by a simple « Exhibition ». All our proposals addressed to the Organizing Committee of Helsinki have so far been ignored.
2. We had brought to this Committee's notice that certain measures concerning the Art Exhibition and its organization appeared to us inadmissible. The Regulation has remained unchanged and no step has been taken to improve it.
3. Compared to the London Exhibition, the Fine-Arts have lost some of their importance and will only play a minor part in the future Games. It is very unlikely that the quality of the works to be submitted will be better, nor is it probable that the participation of the exhibiting countries will prove more important and be of a higher standard than in the past.
4. The Swiss Group of Artists objects strongly to all the restrictions affecting the artistic side of the Olympic Games and refuses to countenance the general trend taken in this direction.
5. This group is ready to cling to the ideal set by de Coubertin. It demands, however, that the artistic contributions should be recognized as a necessary attribute and that the artists' works should be placed once for all on an equal footing with the athletic performances. The Art Exhibition must be prepared as carefully as all the others Olympic Events.
6. The Group of Swiss Artists will do everything in its power to reach its aim when it hopes to make the Art Exhibition of the Games of 1956 an outstanding success.
7. This Group, in collaboration with the artists of other countries, will endeavour to make the Art Exhibition flawless and by so doing, hope to improve the standard of these competitions from one Olympiad to the other.