

Decision of the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee regarding the german situation

(Taken at Oslo on 11th February 1952 and communicated to both German Olympic Committees.)

At the I. O. C. Meeting May 7-9 1951 in Vienna, the desire was expressed that an opportunity should be given to East German competitors to take part in the Games of the XVth Olympiad in Helsinki July 1952 and the I. O. C. empowered its Executive Committee to take steps to this end.

The Executive Committee, pursuant to this action, called representatives of West and East Germany to a meeting in Lausanne May 22nd 1951. At this meeting it was agreed that West and East German representatives should meet and adopt a course of action. Meetings took place in Kassel 15th November 1951 and on 27th November in Hamburg. The closing date for entries for the VIth Winter Games in Oslo passed without an agreement, being reached.

On the 21st of January 1952, President Edström of the I. O. C. invited representatives of East and West Germany to meet with him in Copenhagen, 8th February 1952. The East German delegates did not appear at this meeting. The West German Olympic Committee was represented by four delegates. From the I. O. C. there were President J. S. Edström, Vice-President Avery Brundage and chancellor Otto Mayer.

* * *

No athlete may take part in the Olympic Games unless he is certified by a national federation affiliated to an international federation and by a National Olympic Committee both recognized by the I. O. C. In Western Germany, the National Olympic Committee is recognized by the I. O. C. and also the national sport federations are recognized by their respective international federations. Since this is not the case in East Germany and since there can only be one Olympic Committee in each nation, the

only way East German athletes can participate in the 1952 Olympic Games is by having their entries certified by the recognized German federations and the recognized German Olympic Committee. It is therefore necessary to have a special commission formed of West and East German representatives to organize a single German team for the Helsinki Games. In this commission there shall be three representatives from both East and West Germany under the chairmanship of Dr. Karl von Halt, as a Member of the I. O. C. The German team shall be selected at a special tryout held in the Olympic Stadium in Berlin and the best men shall be chosen regardless of whether they live in East or West Germany.

The German team shall march behind a mutually acceptable German flag. All technical details are to be settled by the special commission which will organize the assembling, the transportation, the housing and the equipping of the team. Costs shall be divided between East and West Germany according to the ratio of the contestant finally chosen.

Oslo, February 11th 1952.

International Olympic Committee:

J. S. EDSTRÖM, President.

Otto MAYER, Chancellor.