

The opinion of the Italian National Olympic Committee

regarding art competitions at the Olympic Games.

The spiritual value of Art Competitions as part of the Olympic Games cannot be overlooked by Sport Enthusiasts who cherish the Olympiads.

Such competitions have a precise significance. They show that Sport is not simply the struggle between muscle and muscle, bone and bone; they show that it inspires in the Soul of Man, sentiments that can be captured and expressed through Art. They show that Sport is more than a physical expression of Man: they prove that it is also a spiritual movement.

Because of this, Italy maintains that Art Competitions should remain part of the Olympic Games and considers that their suppression would be a serious blow to

Sport and the Olympic idea.

None the less it should be noted that the Art Competitions of the Olympic Games have suffered the same lamentable phenomenon as in Sport Competitions: inflation.

There is too much specialisation which calls for too many trials thereby creating difficulties for the various National Committees when facing a full participation in the Games.

A reduction in the Olympic Art Competitions should be studied. Indeed fourteen Gold Medals are too many. It is wrong that the Greater Arts should be placed on the same level as the Lesser Arts as it happened in the case of Sport where games of great importance and World popularity are clas-

sified with others of restricted or local interest.

Italy proposes that the Olympic Art Competitions be retained and the number of Titles be reduced to five: one each for Painting, Sculpture, Literature, Music and Architecture. In addition to these fixed competitions, the lesser branches of Art could be represented at an « Exhibition » according to the individual desire of the Organizing Committees. In this way, the fundamental idea of Art being represented at the Olympic Games would be respected and their organization would be rendered simple bringing about a more complete

participation by all nations.

If this proposal is accepted, as Italy hopes it will be, then she suggests that the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee or an expressly entrusted commission could study the eventual reduction of the Programme so that it can be included in that for the coming 1956 Games.

It is important that these artistic manifestations remain, that they continue as an integral part of the Games, as they have always done from ancient Greek times, giving to sport not only a physical quality but also a moral one.