

After HELSINKI

Numerous newspapers have published the cases of certain athletes, competitors in the Olympic Games at Helsinki, having accepted special prizes after their return in their respective country. This constitutes an infraction of the Olympic Rules of Amateurism. Amongst the cases reported by the press, the attention of the I. O. C. has been drawn to the case concerning the Brazilian athlete, Ferreira da Silva, Olympic hop-step and jump winner and world champion. The I. O. C. duly intervened and requested the Olympic Committee for Brazil to enquire into the matter. We have pleasure in publishing herewith the reply received from the President of this Committee, who is also the I. O. C.'s member for Brazil. It will serve as an example and as such may prove useful :

*Dr. J. Ferreira Santos,
Sao-Paulo.*

Sao-Paulo, November 5th. 1952.

*To the International Olympic Committee,
Lausanne,*

Dear Chancellor,

I have to acknowledge your Circular Letter just received, which, I understand, was sent to several National Olympic Committees, concerning the matter of the victorious competitors at the 1952 Olympic Games who are reported to have received special prizes and gratifications of considerable value. I hasten to reply to your enquiry concerning the case of the Brazilian athlete, Adhemar Ferreira da Silva, Olympic hop-step and jump champion at Helsinki. He has been the victim of his own triumph.

The newspaper Gazeta Esportiva moved by an impulse of enthusiasm, conceived the strange idea of launching a public subscription, with the object of raising funds to buy and present the athlete's aged mother with a house. The athlete knew nothing about this affair and as soon as he returned to Brazil, he proceeded to write to the Editor of the said newspaper. While thanking him, he refused this gift, on the plea that he is an amateur and he fully intends to remain one. Da Silva's parents countersigned the letter. I have just been calling up a meeting of the N. O. C. for Brazil, which is to be held in Rio de Janeiro, when the Committee will take a final decision. I propose to send you a certified true copy of the minutes of this meeting, which I shall countersign. This procès-verbal will be translated in French and in English by a sworn Public Translator. It will be forwarded to you along with all the letters exchanged between the athlete and his parents, on the one side.

also the official statement made by the newspaper in question by which it testifies that all the money has been refunded to the subscribers.

Please rest assured that the N. O. C. for Brazil of which I am the President, fully realizes the importance of Amateurism retaining its full meaning of integrity, honesty and loyalty.

*With my kindest regards,
I remain, yours sincerely*

(Signed) : D^r Ferreira Santos.

In consequence of this letter, we have received the photocopies of all the correspondence exchanged between the parties concerned. We are thus fully convinced of the sincere spontaneity with which the athlete da Silva has refused this gift, proving by this gesture that he prefers to retain his status of Amateur. Let us add that Dr. J. Ferreira Santos, Member of the I. O. C. for Brazil and President of the Brazilian Olympic Committee has sent us full documentation of the transaction in the language of the country with French and English translations made by a Sworn Public Translator. The whole proceedings legalized by a public Notary.

We can but admire and acknowledge the loyal gesture made by the Brazilian athlete cited in this case. We also wish to convey our thanks to the Olympic Committee for Brazil and its distinguished President.
