

CORRESPONDENCE

(TRANSLATION)

Moscow, December 20th. 1952.

To the International Olympic Committee.

Lausanne.

Dear Chancellor,

The Sovietic Olympic Committee has to acknowledge your letter of October 23rd. 1952 as well as its annex.

I have been assigned the duty to refute the assertion contained in the above mentioned documents, in which it is alleged, that our athlete, Mr. Novak, world record champion, had been the recipient of a gratification of considerable value. This imputation is groundless.

Such proceedings never occur in U. S. S. R. The Sovietic Committee warrant the sporting contests on the one condition, that they are conducted strictly on an amateur basis.

The Sovietic athletes who score striking results are rewarded with diplomas and medals. For example, the athletes who secure a first place in a sovietic Olympic event are presented with a gold medal, the winners of the second place are awarded a silver medal and the third win a bronze medal.

We notice, especially, that your assertions are based on a press report published by an English newspaper, *Health and Strength*, which gives no indication as to the origin of its information. It seems obvious that « informations » of this kind are spread only in milieux seeking to discredit our sport in general and our sovietic sportsmen in particular.

The Olympic Committee for U. S. S. R. expresses the wish, that in future, the International Olympic Committee will make all enquiries directly from its official organs and pay no attention to informations emanating from doubtful sources.

With consideration,

signed: *Andrianov*,

member of the I. O. C. for U. S. S. R.

(Notice of the chancellery: The I. O. C. thanks Mr. Andrianov for his formal announcement of which he takes notice with satisfaction.)