

Concerning the Forthcoming IInd Mediterranean Games

(To be held under the patronage of the I. O. C.)

In the course of the Ist. *Mediterranean Games* which took place in Alexandria between the 11th to the 20th of October 1951 and turned out a great success, the Organizing Committee of these Games presided by H. E. Mohamed Taher. Member of the I. O. C., proceeded to appoint the Committee responsible for the organization of the next Games. This Committee is now composed of the representatives of the countries which are all bordering this historical sea.

In the course of this same Session, the candidature of the town of Barcelona, presented by Spain, was accepted unanimously. This typically Mediterranean City is a worthy setting for the celebration of the forthcoming IInd *Mediterranean Games*, in 1955. This choice is a striking proof of the spirit of fairplay and curtesy displayed by the other Delegates who would have been justified in wishing the choice to fall on a town belonging to their respective countries, but who nevertheless were unanimous in agreeing to wawe aside their own proposals of candidature when they became aware of Spain wishing to undertake this venture.

An Organizing Committee was appointed at once and put under the supervision and presidency of Baron de Güell, member of the I. O. C. and member of the head Commission of the E. O. C. The choice is a happy one as Baron de Güell is incontestably the best and the most qualified personality for this post as he is capable to give the Organizing Committee all the necessary help it shall need to bring this undertaking to a successful end.

As well as the directive powers of the E. O. C. and the representatives of the Sport Federations, the members of the Town-Council of Barcelona will also be members of the Organizing Committee, The Mayor of Barcelona has from the very beginning welcomed and approved the project which shall bring to his town the honour of being the chosen City for the celebration of the next Mediterranean Games.

The scheduled organizing work being sufficiently forward, the following dates have already been fixed for the celebration of the IInd *Mediterranean Games* : from the 21st to the 30th of June 1955 while taking into account the fact that at that date the necessary work for the improvement of the Stadium of Montjuich shall be terminated. The magnificent situation of this Stadium placed in the Park bearing the same name as well as its very large capacity (it holds more than 80,000 spectators) most of whom will have sitting accommodation, makes this Stadium eminently adequate for holding the celebration of the chief events of the Games.

Other constructional works of importance are being carried out at the present time,

for instance the Municipal swimming pool which is situated also in the park of Montjuich is being enlarged in order to increase the capacity of the stands for the spectators as well as providing cloakrooms installations. One is also envisaging the erection of a pavilion or a Sport Palace equipped with all the necessary installations with a view to facilitate the successive running of sports events as well as providing suitable training ground for the competitors.

The IInd *Mediterranean Games* will be run on the same lines than the 1st Games. They will assume the character of an invitation extended in the name of sport to the members of the International Olympic Committee, the Delegates of the International Federations, and of course to all the athletes and the official personalities who shall accompany them, all of whom will be welcomed as guests of honour from the moment of their arrival in Barcelona to the time of their departure. They will only be responsible for their own travelling expenses to and from Barcelona as the invitation includes also free transport to all the guests during their stay in Barcelona.

As a general rule the following sports are to be included in the programme of the Games : athletics, basket - ball, boxing, handball, football, gymnastics, equestrian sports; hockey on grass, roller skates wrestling, swimming, weight-lifting, rowing, shooting and yachting. However this programme is not definitively settled and one reserves the right to eliminate all the sports which are not drawing a number of competitors sufficiently great to make these events a source of positive interest.

The Games shall be conducted in full accordance with the Rules of the I. O. C. and will concord more specially with the set of Rules preconized by the I. O. C. for the Regional Games. Thus, in order to participate in the Games, the essential condition to be fulfilled is that the country applying for its entry must belong to the corresponding International Federation.

The Spanish Organizing Committee has a few months ago organized an open competition for the official poster which is to commemorate the IInd *Mediterranean Games*, and competitive exhibitions for these projects have already been opened in Barcelona and Madrid. Three of the submitted sketches have already been accepted and awarded a prize. It is also proposed to make a special issue of stamps which shall commemorate the great event in sport when it is due to take place.

Following the example set by Alexandria where the Ist *Mediterranean Games* resumed a glorious tradition and turned out to be a brilliant success, Barcelona lives in the hope to show herself worthy of the honour

bestowed upon her when she will unite the athletes of all the Mediterranean countries in a great sport's gathering with the view to affirming and setting off higher than ever the Olympic ideal of all those who will be participating in the Games.