

Extract of the Conference of the Executiv Committee of the I. O. C. with the delegates of the National Olympic Committees

Athens, May 10th and 11th 1954 (Hotel Grand-Bretagne)

Chairman: Mr. Avery Brundage, President. of the I. O. C.

Procès-verbal: Drafted from registered records

List of presence

EXECUTIVE COMMISSION OF I. O. C.

President : Mr. Avery Brundage
Vice-President : Mr. Armand Massard
Members : Lord Burghley
 S. A. R. le Prince Axel de Dane-
 mark
 Dr. Miguel A. Mœnck
 S. E. Mohammed Taher

Bulgarie	Hongrie	Roumanie
Canada	Irlande	Saar
Chine	Islande	Suede
Cuba	Israel	Suisse
Danemark	Italie	Tchéco-
Egypte	Japon	slovaquie
Etats-Unis	Liban	Thailand
Espagne	Liechtenstein	Turquie
Finlande	Luxembourg	U.R.S.S.
France	Norvège	Venezuela
Grande-Bretagne	Pologne	Yougoslavie
Grèce	Portugal	

THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES OF
FOLLOWING COUNTRIES WERE
REPRESENTED

Allemagne	Australie	Belgique
Argentine	Autriche	Bésil

The Sitting opens on May 10th at 9.30 A. M.

Mr. *Brundage* extends a hearty welcome to the Delegates of the N. O. C. and informs them that the Executive Committee has been holding a Conference with the Delegates of the I. F. in Lausanne at the beginning of the week.

Mr. V. *Leonopoulos*, in his capacity of Secretary to the Hellenic Olympic Committee also welcomes the E. C. and the Delegates attending the Conference.

The President enumerates the historical record of the Olympic Movement of the last 60 years and confirms once more the fact that the National Olympic Committees, the International Federations and the I. O. C. form one large family only, the members of which must help each other. We have numerous mutual problems to consider.

GAMES OF THE XVIIth OLYMPIAD, MELBOURNE 1956

Mr. *Holt*, Director (technical) of the Melbourne Games informs the Assembly that he is attending this Conference in the above capacity as well as representing the Australian Olympic Committee. He presents to all the Delegates, the report on the organization of the Melbourne Games, compiled in French, English and Spanish.

Mr. *Holt* informs the Delegates that he spent one week in Lausanne, having private interviews with the Delegates of all the I. F. He is very pleased to report that all the Delegates of the I. F. have expressed their entire satisfaction as regards the preconized arrangements, with one exception: the Equestrian Federation which expressed its disappointment with the Australian law of quarantine.

Mr. *Holt* goes on commenting the report which has been distributed to all the Delegates.

REDUCING THE PROGRAMME OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Mr. *Brundage* gives his assurance that nobody really desires to cut the Programme down, on the contrary, one would like to welcome to the Games all those who wish to participate in them. The enthusiasm and the evolution of the Olympic Movement are growing to such an extent that we shall soon reach the point when the organizing of the Games will become an impossible task, unless we adopt some restrictive measures. At Helsinki, for instance, among the athletes, about 900 of the competitors inscribed did not participate in a single competition. The number of officials and journalists is also too high as a certain number of them attend the Games as tourists. What would we do if, for the sake of argument, the 80 recognized N. O. C. were to send us each a team of football, of basketball or a team of water-polo? We are up against a serious material difficulty, for it is impossible to give an opportunity to play to all the teams during the 16 days the Games last.

It is decided to maintain the team sports in their present form. This applies only to football, basketball and water-polo; on the other hand their number will be reduced to 16, the day before the opening of the Games. These two preceding measures had to be accepted by the I. F. Mr. *Duncan* (Great-Britain), asks that the team sport's preliminary heats should be terminated at least three months before the Games, this in order to give time to the N. O. C. to become organized. On the President's request Mr. *Seeldrayers*, Vice-President of the I. A. F. F. proceeds to give a few explanations regarding the organization of the preliminary heats of football in view of the world championships. These preliminary matches take place one year before the championships and must be terminated, at the latest, one month prior to the beginning of the said championships of the world.

RESERVES. — It is decided that the reserves are to be excluded from the individual events.

VIIIth OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, CORTINA 1956

Mr. *Onesti*, President of the Italian Olympic Committee begs Mr. *Fabjan*, Secretary of the Organizing Committee of Cortina, to comment upon the text of the report which has been distributed to the Delegates, in four languages. Mr. *Fabjan* is pleased to state that all the I. F. have given their approval of the project which has been submitted to them, with the exception of the Skiing I. F. The latter requested the addition of two new events, namely the 30 km. long distance race for men and the 3 x 5 km. relay race for women. This last item shall be settled by the I. O. C. later on. In the event of the I. O. C. agreeing to grant the requests of the I. S. F., the Organizing Committee of Cortina shall comply willingly with its decision and will make the necessary arrangements for these two additional events to take place. In reply, to Mr. von *Frenckell's* enquiry, Mr. *Fabjan* gives his assurance to the Delegates that the Cortina Authorities have decided to avoid all speculation in connection with the Winter Games, on their sides, the hotel proprietors have not the slightest intention to increase their tariffs.

TWO MEDALS AWARDED FOR THE SAME PERFORMANCE

A lengthy debate is engaged as regard the matter of two medals being awarded to a gymnast for the same performance which counts in the individual event as well as in the team event. It is decided to request the I. O. C. to cancel the award of two medals for the same performance.

NEW SPORTS. — After discussion, it is agreed that no new sport shall be introduced at the Melbourne Games of 1956 this decision applies more particularly to the candidatures of volleyball, archery judo and roller-skating. This recommendation shall be referred to the I. O. C. for their examination.

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF OFFICIALS. — The Assembly agrees to reduce the number of officials attending the Games according to a scale affecting 30 to 15% of the number of the participants, with a minimum of three officials. The number of officials must, however not exceed the number of athletes. This reduction obviously does not apply to either the judges or the referees, but essentially to the officials escorting the teams. Mr. *Fabjan* (Cortina) expresses the wish to see this Rule also applied to the Winter Games. The President replies in the affirmative. As for the International Federations, they are entitled to send two technical advisers, a fortnight before the Opening of the Games but are not authorized to have other officials, neither inspectors nor observers.

JOURNALISTS, etc. — The Assembly approves of the E. C.'s proposal to limit the free entrances to journalists to a maximum quota of 1,000, for the photographers a maximum quota of 150 and for the film, television and radio, reporters also a maximum of 150. These measures concern the Summer Games. On Mr. *Fabjan's* (Cortina) proposal the Assembly decides that the quota for photographers and journalists shall not exceed 400 at the Winter Games, in the case of radio and television operators the quota is limited to 60 or 70.

NEW OPTIONAL SPORTS. — It is decided that new optional sports can be recognized only if at least 20 countries are affiliated to a corresponding I. F., and that a minimum 12 countries are participating in the Games.

SPECIFICATIONS OF CONDITIONS IMPUTABLE TO CANDIDATE TOWNS APPLYING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GAMES.

— Following a remark made by General *Stoitchev* concerning the conditions imposed on the towns applying for the organization of the Games, the President points out that the I. O. C. is in the course of elaborating a set of detailed and inclusive Ruling of the conditions imputable to these towns. In this way, we hope to avoid all further surprises of the kind of the equestrian question of Melbourne.

FINAL PROGRAMME. — The Assembly approves of the E. C.'s proposal regarding the matter of the technical Programme which should be submitted to the I. O. C. at least two years prior to the opening of the Games. Furthermore, no alteration of any kind to the Programme shall be authorized after the Session of the I. O. C., the former takes place usually one year prior to the opening of the Games.

EQUESTRIAN SPORTS. — General *Stoitchev* draws the attention to the fact that the equestrian sports were duly scheduled for the Melbourne Programme, there is no gainsaying it, the fact, that the law of quarantine practically prevents these events from being held in Australia, and is it variance with our Rules. The *President* remarks that in point of fact, the Games have been attributed to Melbourne including the equestrian sports. When taking in consideration the situation as we all know it, the I. O. C. in its Session of next week proposes to discuss the question when it will be in a position to reach a final decision.

NEW RULES FOR THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES.— Mr. *Brundage* announces that I. O. C. will draft a set of Rules applicable to the organization of the N. O. C. Glaring abuses prevail in some countries, and we have been able to establish the fact that certain committees (N. O. C.) are composed of only one person. Furthermore, some committees in existence are composed solely of politicians, who have not been working in the interest of sport in their country. This matter is of very great importance, adds the President, for if the Rules of the I. O. C. are not endorsed and respected by certain N. O. C. we shall be faced with the necessity to cease to recognize them. The President asks the Delegates to express their views on the subject in order to enable the I. O. C. to take these in consideration. The President reminds the Delegates that they are in possession of a copy of the draft of these new Rules, the latter aim virtually at excluding all political or commercial influence from the affairs concerning the N. O. C. The question of protection of the Olympic Emblems is also under consideration and the I. O. C. hopes that the drafting and realization of an international convention similar to the one of the Red-Cross will soon take place.

After deliberating on the details of the set of Rules, the Assembly adopts, the principle of the draft of such a ruling, but the Executive Committee is appointed to forward a new text to the N. O. C., while taking into consideration the views which have just been expressed at this Conference. A final decision will only be taken after having obtained the definitive consent and approval of the majority of the N. O. C.

REGULATION FLAG FOR THE WINTER GAMES

The *President* points out, specially to Mr. Onesti and Mr. Fabjan that there is now an official flag for use at the Winter Olympic Games which was presented to the I. O. C. by the city of Oslo. He begs the Organizing Committee of Cortina to take all the necessary steps to effect the transfer of this

Flag to Cortina. The Organizing Committee may perhaps draw helpful informations concerning what happens with the flag in use at the Summer Games.

TAKING PICTORIAL FILMS OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The *President* confirms that the taking of pictorial films during the Games, is of great importance. Unfortunately, the official film has never been available in time for the N. O. C. and the I. F. For this reason, the I. O. C. will probably decide to authorize the I. F. to turn a film of 16 mm. of their respective sports, and the I. O. C. will also authorize the N. O. C. to be remitted with a short film, this as soon as possible.

NUMBER OF SPORTS AT THE REGIONAL GAMES

Mr. *Brundage* mentions to the Delegates that the tendency to organize Regional Games is increasing from year to year. We have in existence already the Mediterranean Games, the Pan-Americans, the Central American Games and the Carribeans as well as the Asiatic Games. Up to now, all these Games have been organized without taking into consideration our Rules, this fact is due to a lack of knowledge of our Olympic Rules. In certain cases, these Regional Games have been prolonged to a period lasting 20 to 30 days. They also included competitions of golf, chess, billiards, etc. On the occasion of its last year session, the I. O. C. drafted a set of Rules for the Regional Games which are applying for the patronage of the I. O. C. and desire to have the privilege of hoisting the Olympic colours on the Stadium. By placing this item on its order of the day, the I. O. C. shows its desire that the Regional Games should be run on parallel lines with the Olympic Games. We are of the opinion that the programme should be limited to include only the sports practised at the Olympic Games, with a few exceptions applying to the sports of purely local or regional interest.

Mr. *Brundage* goes on saying that he has just been attending, last March, at Mexico-City, the 7th Games of Central America and the Carribeans, 12 to 15 countries were participating in them. These Games proved a real success. Mr. *Brundage* informs the Assembly that the Asiatic Games are being held at Manila at the present time.

SITTING OF MAY 13th

Mr. *Vlahov* (Yugoslavia) expresses his satisfaction at the contact the N. O. C. are able to have with the I. O. C. He estimates that during the last two days we have only skimmed the various topics without discussing them thoroughly. He thinks it would be advisable to study carefully the part and responsibility pertaining to each N. O. C.

Mr. *Brundage* maintains that it is only by bringing about a perfect union and understanding between the N. O. C. and the I. F. and ourselves that the I. O. C. will be able to reach a commun agreement and safeguard the principles of our Olympic ideal in order to see it respected by all. We strive to improve our Rules from year to year in order to make them acceptable in every country of the world.

Dr. *Fried* (Austria) shares the President's point of view but believes that we should give a precise meaning to the actual cooperation between these three organisms. According to the present set of Rules, these rights and liabilities are not defined in sufficiently precise terms.

Mr. *Brundage* thinks that most of us are loyal to the principle of a representative Government and to democracy. One of the principal and fundamental reasons accounting for the success of the Olym-

pic Movement is found in the way the I. O. C. is constituted. This composition conceived by Baron de Coubertin has been founded on the soundest and wisest concepts the latter ever had. As a matter of fact, the members of the I. O. C. do not represent their own country, they are considered as Representatives of the Olympic Movement, and they are the ambassadors of the I. O. C. in the different countries which have sworn allegiance to this movement. Were the I. O. C. to be elected by the country the members of originally come from, we might be tempted to be influenced by the national interests of our respective country. Knowing human nature as we do, this would inevitably happen. It is precisely because the members of the I. O. C. are international that the N. O. C. should exercise a complete control over the sports of their own countries. It is also for this reason that it is not called for to adjudge them rights on an international basis. The President lays stress also on the fact that the I. O. C. is growing larger and larger as far as the number of its members is concerned. It is very difficult to achieve good work when the Assembly exceeds a certain number of participants. The financial question is also playing an important factor, and we cannot convene frequent Sessions or Conferences when everybody has to pay his own expenses, as is the case with the members of the I. O. C. The President strives his utmost to improve in every way the mutual relations between the N. O. C. The I. F. and the I. O. C. and he suggests that a Session should take place next year in Paris and another at the time of the 1956 Games. The I. O. C. proposes to hold a Conference with the I. F. in 1957 and he thinks that in the very near future, the general organization of the Olympic Movement will be improved as compared with the way it stands today. He also hopes that as the result of these two meetings, the majority of the difficulties will be overcome and that numerous problems will be solved.

The Delegate for the O. C. of Bulgaria adheres to Mr. de Stefani's (Italy) proposal and is of the opinion that a Conference with the Delegates of the N. O. C. should be held during the year preceding the Games and the year following. Mr. *de Stefani* (Italy) thinks that it is necessary that the Conferences of the E. C. with the N. O. C. should take place every year. Mr. *Hunsun Hoh* (China) shares Mr. von Frenckell's point of view. He also agrees with the Italian Delegate who requests that meetings between the E. C. and the N. O. C. should be more frequent. The orator demands the support of the I. O. C. and to be assured of a close cooperation for, where he comes from, professionalism which did not exist, is spreading more and more. This constitutes one of the difficulties which we are faced with.

SESSION IN 1955

The *President* then proposes and the Assembly approves of the suggestion that the next Session should take place in Paris, in 1955 and the next one in 1957.

Mr. *Kiselev* (U. S. S. R.) considers that the statements made by the Yugoslavian Delegate are worthy of retaining our full attention. To his mind, the N. O. C. constitute the foundations of the whole Olympic Movement. Were the I. O. C. to be founded on other precepts than the ones adopted at the present time it would incur the risk to come under foreign or political influence. No further question being asked, the President brings the Conference to an end at 13 o'clock. Mr. *Marcel Henninger* (Switzerland) speaking on behalf of his colleagues, thanks the President and congratulated him on the superior and effective way in which he led the debates.

The President:
Avery BRUNDAGE.

The Chancellor:
Otto MAYER.