

The German Team at the 1956 Games

As a result of the decisions taken by the International Olympic Committee at the Paris Session held in June 1955, a unified German team composed of athletes belonging to East and West Germany, has participated to the VIIth Winter Olympic Games at Cortina d'Ampezzo. Owing to the mutual agreement reached by the representatives of both German Committees, the latter achieved within the Olympic field, a result which politics have failed to obtain up to the present time, namely the fusion of a

group of athletes of both Germanies; this is truly a victory for the Olympic ideal.

At Cortina, the German team was composed of 55 athletes coming from West Germany and of 15 coming from the East ; these men were selected as a result from the preliminary heats which had been held. One man chosen from the zone which produced the greatest number of athletes in the team, acted as "Chef de mission" of the united team.

It paraded under the same flag, the same emblem and wore the same uniform. The

competitors were boarded under the same roof. An excellent spirit of good fellowship prevailed among them.

This first experience having proved most conclusively satisfactory, the members of the International Olympic Committee who foregathered at the Cortina Session, did not raise any objection to the conclusions drawn in the report presented by their German colleague Dr. Karl Ritter von Halt, which gives effect to the decisions taken in Paris in the following terms :

1. The Olympic Committee of East Germany retains its provisional recognition on the understanding that a unified team of both Germanies presents itself at the Melbourne Games.
2. There will be only one "Chef de Mission" chosen from the zone possessing the greatest number of selected athletes.
3. For all sporting events, the team will be formed as the result of the preliminary heats.

4. All the correspondence concerning the Games will be executed through the good offices of the Committee of the West, the entries to the Games must be signed jointly.

5. All political interference in matters pertaining to Olympism is strictly forbidden.

The President of the Committee (West), Dr. Karl Ritter von Halt reported with pleasure the perfect understanding which is prevailing among his colleagues of the East German Committee. Mr. Schöbel and himself.

Concerning the Equestrian Games which are going to be held in Stockholm in June of the current year, the problem of collaboration does not exist between the two committees, on account of the Committee of the East not possessing horsemen of a standing which allow them to compete.