

## The True Mission of the International Olympic Committee

by Frederic Schlatter

A striking and unprecedented event has taken place recently. As soon as the first echoes of this event reached their ears, some sceptical and blasé or merely ironical people shrugged their shoulders. As it turned out, they are wrong, this event is authentic. It may only be a faint sound of warning among the arrogant and fateful uproar caused by the political economy which is deafening the world at present with its warlike din or hypocritical pacifism.

But it is precisely because this event could happen now when passions run high, that it carries in itself a meaning which cannot leave any right-thinking man indifferent.

The Chancellery of the International Olympic Committee at Lausanne obtained immediate satisfaction when, during actual fighting and bloodshed taking place, it requested that a 'truce' may be granted at least in favour of the Hungarian athletes in order to allow them to join in Melbourne the competitors of other nations with the view to celebrate the Games with them in the spirit inspired by their Renovator : Pierre de Coubertin — which consists in contributing to the building up of a better world.

It is undoubtedly true that we are still very far from the 'Olympic truce' of ancient

times when it interrupted wars in order to allow people of all nations to foregather unmolested at the Games. These Games of Antiquity were dedicated to the gods, while our modern era Games are not connected to any religion, their basic principle consists in an appeal to the men of goodwill. In the present instance, it is all the more striking to note that the voice of the ideals of sport has made itself heard and has been accepted so readily. In the face of it, this fact reveals the true sense of the supreme mission assumed by the International Olympic Committee, it consists in maintaining and developing ceaselessly the humanitarian ideal which inspired its founder. In obtaining satisfaction so readily to its request concerning the release of the Hungarian athletes, the International Olympic Committee received the proof that the aim set by the Olympic Movement is now recognized and its high and noble ideals are being realized by all, even by men plunged in the most desperate situations. The Olympic Movement has also obtained an important moral victory and it has increased its prestige. May this achievement make the members of the International Olympic Committee realize better than ever the far reaching and deep meaning of Olympic mission.