

Concerning the protection of Olympic Emblems

Report of Me A. Hafner

This report was submitted at Evian on June 4th 1957 to the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee. It dealt with consulting Governments in view of convening an International Conference for the adoption of an International Convention for the protection of the Olympic Games, their name and their emblems.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen

The marathon I mentioned to you at Oslo in 1952 is still going on, it cannot be recorded in kilometres but in years of painstaking efforts.

The Swiss Government considers that the time for interceding with other Governments

is up and the closing date for the proceedings has come. Although the consultation met with comparative success, the Swiss Government estimates that the results obtained are not sufficiently satisfactory to warrant calling up the planned Conference on an international basis. Of 65 Governments consulted only 47 replied, 35 pronounced themselves in favour of the scheme and replied in the affirmative while 12 responded in the negative and 18 Governments failed to reply. Thus if the total number of favourable responses is 35, the total of unfavourable replies and of the abstentions amounts to 30.

The countries which sent replies in the affirmative are :

Europe : France, Italy, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Holland, Denmark, Greece, Luxemburg, Liechtenstein, Monaco, U.S.S.R., Poland, Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Great Britain, (including East Germany).

Asia-Africa : China, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Iran, Irak, Israel, Lebanon, and Egypt.

America : U.S.A., Argentine, Brazil, Chili, Haiti, Panama, Mexico.

The countries which sent replies in the negative are :

Europe : Ireland, West Germany, Finland, Sweden, Yugoslavia.

Asia-Africa : Turkey, India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa.

America : Canada.

No replies :

Europe : Norway and Iceland.

Asia-Africa : Syria, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Ceylon.

America : Mexico, Cuba, Uruguay, Paraguay, Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia; Peru, Guatemala, Salvadore, Costa-Rica, the Dominican Republic.

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I kept up a voluminous correspondence with the members of the International Olympic Committee and the National Olympic Committees of the 30 countries who sent unfavourable responses as well as with those who failed to reply. I received several promises for new intercessions but these have not met with great success so far. Several members of the International Olympic Committee or of the National Olympic Committees gave me their assurance that as a result of their renewed efforts with their Governments, they hope to receive satisfaction by the end of December 1957.

The Swiss Olympic Committee interceded with the Swiss Government in order to prevail on the latter to extend the delay for acceptance of additional favourable replies which might eventually reach it before the end of December 1957 ; this in spite of the closing date of consultation and the decision taken by the Swiss Government to cancel the planned Conference, in the hope that, by that date, the situation may present itself in a better light thus causing it to

recall its decision of giving up the scheme. In the course of my negotiations I discovered that several members of the International Olympic Committee and some of the National Olympic Committees did not fully understand the importance of the scheme as far as it is going to affect the future of Olympism. They do not seem to react with sufficient enthusiasm when interceding, nor do they seem to grasp the necessity to overcome opposition- to the scheme. In Sweden and Finland, the National Olympic Committees went as far as expressing their disapproval of the projected Convention within their own Government.

The Swiss Government has however entered a reservation for the replies received from the National Olympic Committees of three countries as these were not made by their Governments. They concern the following countries : Pakistan, the Philippines and Iran. Moreover, the Swiss Government looked upon these replies as being in the affirmative.

In spite of all the obstacles we met. I am convinced that we must not lose faith, nor give up courage but we must fight till we reach our goal : the final victory. Nevertheless, I observed that nowadays some people need encouraging in order to persevere.

I beg to be allowed to make you the following suggestions :

1. The President of the International Olympic Committee could address a personal letter to the members of the International Olympic Committee and to the National Olympic Committees for Pakistan. The Philippines and Iran asking them to renew their efforts when interceding again with their respective Governments. asking them to make their decision known to the Swiss Government as well as that of the Olympic authorities of the countries in question.

2. To pass the following motion : that the President of the International Olympic Committee should send a personal letter encouraging and insisting with the members of the International Olympic Committee and the National Olympic Committees of the 30 countries which sent unfavourable replies and those which did not reply in order that they reconsider their decision. The above resolution could also be published in the Bulletin of the International Olympic Committee.

The text of this motion would be as follows :

“At the meeting of the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee at Evian on June 4th 1957, M^{re} Hafner submitted his final report concerning the consultation of Governments devised by the Swiss Government in view of convening the planned International Conference for the adoption of a Convention for the protection of the Olympic Games, their name and their emblems.

“Of 65 Governments consulted, 18 failed to reply.

"Of the 47 replies received, 35 are in the affirmative and 12 are in the negative.

"Although this result is encouraging, the Swiss Government does not consider it sufficiently satisfactory to warrant its convening the planned Conference ; there is a hope, however, that the Swiss Government may go back on its decision if, by the end of December 1957, 20 at least of the negative replies or of the countries which failed to reply change their decision and send affirmative replies, this condition would apply especially to the more important countries concerned :

"Namely : Ireland, Federal German Republic, Finland, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Norway, Iceland, Turkey, India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Syria, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Guatemala, Salvadore, Costa-Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ceylon, Canada, Cuba, Uruguay and Paraguay.

"The Executive Board makes an urgent appeal to the members of the International Olympic Committee and to the National Olympic Committees of these 30 countries with a view that they should intercede again most emphatically with their respective governments, using all their influence and doing their utmost to get them to support the scheme and send a favourable reply, or at any rate to pronounce themselves willing to participate in the projected Conference with an observer, while reserving themselves the right to adhere to the Convention at a later date.

"This Convention bears an enormous influence on the future of the International Olympic Committee and of the Olympics.

"The members of the International Olympic Committee and the National Olympic Committees of these 30 countries are asked to give this all important problem priority over all other consideration and make it their main concern. One should spare no efforts to attain our aim. The International Olympic Committee is confident that it can rely on the devotion and the influence of its members and of the National Olympic Committees in these countries with regard to bringing about the successful issue of an enterprise which is vital for the setting up of a solid and lasting structure for Olympism throughout the world.

"Failure to bring this scheme to a successful end is unthinkable. The International Olympic Committee awaits confidently the results of the new intercessions which are bound to be successful when one takes into consideration the numerous friends the International Olympic Committee can depend upon in the 30 countries cited above."

I do not want to conclude this report without assuring the president and the members of the Executive Board of my staunch and loyal support in this cause.

Signed : *Me Antoine Hafner.*

The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee set down this report on record and gave it its full approval — while expressing its warmest thanks and sincere gratitude to Me Hafner for the benevolent and most appreciated aid he gave to the International Olympic Committee and to Olympism in this matter.