

From the Stadium to the Tribune

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The headlines of the sports articles nowadays bring us news of such and such a cycle Tour or athletics record, but the most important news in the world of sport has appeared only in very small print in one or two publications. It might be suitably entitled, *An American speaks to the Americans*, and makes the following outspoken statement : Although the Bulgarians and the members of the Peoples' Republic of China are recognized by the International Olympic Committee and are therefore invited to participate in the Winter Games of 1960, they are unlikely to be able to compete at Squaw Valley through their lack of visas for entry into the United States. This is because these countries have no diplomatic relations with the United States. Mr. Avery Brundage, President of the International Olympic Committee, has stated that if no compromise can be reached the Winter Games of 1960 will be transferred to another country.

This seems of comparatively little importance, but in fact it is quite outstanding.

Until now the vast world of sport has bowed in conformance to the requirements, decisions, and even errors of the governments, whilst unaware of its strength and its capabilities. This can be seen, for instance, in the refusal of Syria to invite Israel to

international championship. There are very few examples from the past to compare with the action of Count Baillet Latour, the then President of the International Olympic Committee, who threatened Hitler with the withdrawal of the Winter Games of 1936 if he did not have the roads leading to Garmisch-Partenkirchen cleared of anti-Jewish placards immediately...

Now, Mr. Brundage says bluntly to his countrymen in the name of universal sport : 'The Games belong to all countries and not to one country in particular. If your politics cannot allow all the peoples of the world to set foot on your soil we shall go and plant the standard of Olympism elsewhere. As for the money that you have already spent on your Games, that is your misfortune.' No other argument could be better calculated to touch the Americans to the quick. Nor could anything else have demonstrated more clearly that Sport is determined to break down the barriers which separate the peoples. What else, in fact, can be the guiding spirit of Sport ? And what would become of the *Tour de France*, for instance, if the Italians and the Belgians could not participate because their Governments were carrying on a cold war with Paris ?

Passepartout.