
SPORT HAS DONE IT AGAIN WHEN IT GOT THE BETTER OF POLITICS ONCE MORE

This is just what has happened recently in Germany. Last August, a serious controversy and difference of opinion arose amongst certain sporting circles of West Germany and the Minister for Foreign Affairs von Bretano, who had ordered to cancel a football match Hamburg-Moscow, by refusing to grant the necessary visas. The Minister's decision rose a storm of protests amidst German sporting milieux where it was said that 'Freedom could not be upheld by imposing restrictive measures'. This incident took place on August 26th when, in the course of an electoral meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs upheld his decision while defending his point of view. The strong protests, voiced by 5,5 millions of sportsmen of West Germany, against the measure created with a view to impede the sporting relationship

with the Eastern countries, came to a successful issue on August 27th. Mr. von Bretano had to forego his decision when, in agreement with Mr. Willi Daume, President of the German Sport Federation and Member of the International Olympic Committee who intervene energetically in this matter, von Bretano made a public statement to the effect that a Sport Directing Board controlled by the State ought to be proscribed. Mr. Daume was able to announce at the close of a talk which he had with the Minister, that the Moscow team would be allowed to come to Hamburg to compete in the football match in question.

The other international sport Meetings are also authorized to take place.

Thus sport once more has got the better of politics !