

The International Bobsleigh Federation sends a note to the International Olympic Committee

The Congress of the F.I.B.T. (International Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Federation) held its Session at Garmisch, when it decided to send the following note to the International Olympic Committee which received it at the beginning of last March.

1. As a result of a survey and check up carried out during the meeting, it was revealed that twelve federations have decided to participate at the competitions of Squaw Valley, namely : Germany, Great Britain, Austria, Argentine, Belgium

Canada, Spain, United States, France, Italy, Rumania, and Switzerland.

Sweden and Poland fully agree on principle but are putting off to a later date the confirmation of their decision of participation. This survey confirms the result of the referendum organized last autumn by Mr. J.-E. Morgan, Chairman of the A.A.U. Bobsleigh Committee for the U.S.A. Olympic Bobsleigh Committee ; and constitutes a conclusive finding.

Mr. Prentis A. Hale, president of the Organizing Committee of Squaw Valley was

duly informed of the situation as it stands today, and gave his solemn promise that should these anticipated participations be reckoned with, his Committee at Squaw Valley will proceed with the construction of the Bobrun after ratification of the scheme by the International Olympic Committee of which it depends.

2. When applying for the staging of the Winter Games at the Paris Session of the International Olympic Committee in 1955, the Californian Delegation commissioned by their Governor, pledged themselves *ipso facto* when they gave their solemn promise to maintain all the Winter sport events as they have been competed for in the last thirty-four years. Therefore, it was with deep concern that the Congress of the F.I.B.T. heard how hastily the International Olympic Committee decreed to eliminate from these Games, a federation which is incontestably typically amateur, on the mere report submitted

by an organizer, without taking even the trouble to enquire from the federation concerned, which is solely responsible, for the result of the survey made in this matter.

3. In view of the aforesaid, the Congress of the F.I.B.T. begs the International Olympic Committee to go back on its Sofia decision by reintegrating the Bobsleigh events in the competitive schedule of the Winter Olympic Games of 1960.

Editor's comments : It is obvious that the problem presents itself today under a very different aspect than it did at the Session in Sofia, where two nations only declared to participate. There the International Olympic Committee decided that if twelve nations were to notify their entries, the problem would be reconsidered at the Session in Tokyo ; this condition being now fulfilled, the question will be on the Agenda of the Session next May.