
THE PRESS AND THE SESSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

We have been asked over and over again why the Sessions of the International Olympic Committee are not opened to the Press. We take this opportunity of explaining the reasons which we have often given verbally. Let us recall how, for instance, at the Sofia Session in 1957, the confidential nature caused unfortunate misrepresentations on the part of certain journalists (absent from Sofia. we hasten to add) who 'speculated on the esoterical doctrine which the International Olympic Committee adopts towards the press. The fundamental principles of the international Olympic Committee call for members who are free and independent, since they are considered the ambassadors of this Committee to the various sports organizations in their own country, and not representatives of their country' on the Committee. They are not allowed to accept any mandate from their Government or

anybody else in their country which might bind them or interfere with their own free vote. On this ground alone, they are subjected to a very strict selection. They must be instilled by high ideals, entirely devoted to the interest of the Olympic Movement, excluding all personal or national interests.

It is therefore easy to understand why, if the press were to be present at these Sessions, all this freedom would be hampered, and certain members moved by a superior interest in their speeches might find an echo in their own country not shared by the mass. The presence of the press might prevent the members of expressing themselves freely and openly for fear that, when they return to their own country, they might meet with undeserved criticism. These are the reasons why we esteem that the application of this measure is justified.

Besides, the International Olympic Committee needs the collaboration of the press and is far from finding it undesirable. On the contrary, after every Sitting a press conference is held in order to give the press full information on ALL THE DECISIONS which have been taken. The International Olympic Committee appreciates the collaboration of the press at its full value and does not hide from it any fact connected with the of

Committee's Activities and publishes in its Bulletin an extract of the minutes of its Sessions. Truth, in the eyes of the International Olympic Committee, is paramount, and it thinks that the journalist should feel that what he relates is true. With this object in view, the International Olympic Committee appointed a representative who gives accurate accounts of the proceedings the Sessions to the press.