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# About the Chinese Problem (Taiwan)

*Statement by Avery Brundage*

*President of the International Olympic Committee given in Lausanne  
on June 3d 1959 (see also statement given at the end of the English text)*

Because of the importance of the Olympic Movement, there is a continuous effort since the war to involve the International Olympic Committee in politics. This we strongly resent and are determined to resist with all our strength. Today it is quite apparent that much misinformation has been printed about the action of the International Olympic Committee on the so called Chinese problem at its recent meeting in Munich. It has been written that the Chinese National Olympic Committee (headquarters Taipei) was *ousted* or *expelled* from the Olympic Movement. This is not the case since this organization has been a member in good standing for many years and there was no reason for withdrawing recognition except for its name. The story is as follows:

After the war the Chinese National Olympic Committee which had been in Nanking moved to Taipei. In due time another Olympic Committee was organized in Peking and after some delay was recognized by the International Olympic Committee, which has as one of its fundamental principles 'No discrimination is allowed against any country or person on grounds of race, religion or politics'. After its recognition this Peking Olympic Committee made repeated demands for jurisdiction over sport in Taiwan. This was always firmly denied by the International Olympic Committee, because this Peking Committee could not possibly exert any authority over sport in Taiwan at this time. As a result the Peking Olympic Committee refused to participate in the 1956 Olympic Games at Melbourne and finally last year withdrew entirely from the Olympic Movement and from the International Sports Federations.

At our meeting, in Munich, it was pointed out that, if the Peking Committee has no authority in Taiwan, it is equally true that the Formosa Committee has no authority in China. It was for this reason that the following action was taken in Munich:

*The Chinese National Olympic Committee, having its seat in Taipei (Taiwan), will be notified by the International Olympic Committee's Chancellor that it cannot continue to be recognized under that name since it does not control sport in the country of China, and its name will be removed from the official list.*

If an application for recognition under a different name is made it will be considered by the International Olympic Committee.

It was no *pressure* from anyone - the action was practically unanimous and it was a purely common sense decision, not political in any sense of the word. We cannot recognize a Chinese Committee in Taiwan any more than we could recognize an Italian Committee in Sicily or a Canadian Committee in Newfoundland.

Furthermore there is nothing new about this action since already for the 3rd Asian Games in Tokyo, last year, the athletes from Taiwan were notified that they could only participate as from Formosa and not from China and they did so participate. The International Olympic Committee recognizes only sports organizations and not governments and has no intention of deviating from its basic policy of no discrimination, either, religions, social or political.

# Late issue : THE CHINESE PROBLEM

News release from the Organizing Committee of the VIIIth Olympic Winter Games 1960

San Francisco, June 29. — The Nationalist Chinese will have an opportunity to compete in the VIII Olympic Winter Games at Squaw Valley, California, while the Red Chinese definitely will not.

These two facts were re-emphasized today (Monday, June 29) by Prentis C. Hale, President of the Squaw Valley Games' Organizing Committee, following a conference here with Avery Brundage, the President of the International Olympic Committee in San Francisco, over the action involving Nationalist China by the International Olympic Committee at its recent Munich meeting.

Following is Hale's two-point statement :

'This is made in order to inform the American public of the true state of affairs concerning the Republic of China and its position relative to the Organizing Committee.

1. The Olympic Committee of the Republic of China (Nationalist China) has been invited to participate in the Squaw Valley Games by the VIII Olympic Winter Games Organizing Committee ; the Republic of China's Olympic Committee has accepted and will have an opportunity to appear.
2. The Olympic Committee of the Chinese Democratic Republic (Red China) was not recognized by the International Olympic Committee at the time the Organizing Committee issued its invitations to participate; it is not recognized by the International Olympic Committee at present and it will not be permitted to participate in the 1960 Winter Games.'

**In addition to his remarks, Hale produced a statement by Mr. Brundage, which read :**

*I wish to assure all those interested in the Olympic Movement, particularly my fellow Americans, that there was no political motivation lurking behind the International Olympic Committee action at Munich.*

*It has been alleged that the International Olympic Committee bowed to pressure and threats. There was no pressure and there were no threats. The International Olympic Committee, interested solely in guiding and leading amateur sport to strengthen friendship among sportsmen of all countries, yields to none in pursuit of these values. The International Olympic Committee's May 28 vote was initiated by its own membership with the sole aim of obtaining a more accurate description of Nationalist China's place in the Olympic family. The vote was one-sided with only seven of the 48 members present registering a negative opinion.*

*Discussions with the Chinese on Formosa have been proceeding amicably and I feel certain that an agreement will be reached. Recent reports that the Nationalist China Olympic Committee has been denied admission under the name, Republic of China, or a variation thereof, are not true.*

*The May 28 vote did not expel nor oust Nationalist China from the Olympic Movement, and we deplore*

*the widespread misinterpretation to that effect. The International Olympic Committee action was merely a move to identify properly those athletes who would compete under the control of the Olympic Committee on Taiwan, thereby reaffirming the stand already taken, in 1954, by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (representing nearly 100 countries) that Nationalist China cannot represent that it controls sport on the Chinese mainland. The Olympic Games welcome the youth of the world without distinction of race, religion or politics. The International Olympic Committee has no intention of deviating from this fundamental policy. It must, however, face the fact that under present conditions the Olympic Committee on Taiwan does not and cannot control sport on the mainland. The International Olympic Committee has no political axe to grind. The International Olympic Committee does not meddle in politics, nor is it doing so now. Indeed, it is attempting to remain as far away as possible by according both groups of Chinese athletes an opportunity for recognition.*

*You will recall that the International Olympic Committee's refusal to deal in politics during 1958 led to Red China's departure from the Olympic Movement with the public statement that they would never return as long as Avery Brundage, a tool of the imperialist State Department of the United States, is president. Red China sought to claim authority over Chinese athletes in every country, including Taiwan, a claim always sharply rejected by the International Olympic Committee.*

*The grievous misunderstandings caused by what have been, in many instances, false conclusions reached through erroneous information about the Munich action are most regrettable. No nation will be barred at Squaw Valley or anywhere else as long as the rules of the International Olympic Committee are followed.*

*It is sincerely hoped these remarks will clear the atmosphere. The Organizing Committee for the Squaw Valley Games is engaged in a tremendous effort to demonstrate to the world that a great international sport event can be staged in the United States according to the highest Olympic standards. It is absolutely necessary, therefore, that this committee, which, in this undertaking, is representing the entire United States, has the wholehearted support of all the people and their representatives. Only in this way will the Winter Games be presented in a manner in which our country can fake pride.*

*My feelings with regard to the Olympic Movement have never been better expressed than when President Eisenhower recently said: The Olympic Games, bringing together athletes from many continents, encourage higher standards in the field of sports and, in a larger sense, contribute to a better understanding among the peoples of the world. For the same spirit of fair play which exists in international athletic contests can, when applied to human relations, bring the members of the human family closer to the eternal goal of a true and just peace.'*