

# **Plan for reorganizing the International Olympic Committee presented by the Olympic Committee of U.S.S.R.**

The International Olympic Movement, which aims are to promote the development of fine human moral and physical qualities and the strengthening of friendship between the peoples, has assumed a wide swing and come to take an important place in sport life of many countries.

Rendering the International Olympic Committee and the members thereon, their due for services in the promotion of the Olympic Movement, the Olympic Committee of the U.S.S.R. believes that the successes achieved can and must be augmented in future.

One of the important conditions, which may ensure it, is, in our opinion, an active and direct participation of the National Olympic Committees and the International Sport Federations in the activities of the International Olympic Committee itself.

The matter was not once raised in principle at the meetings which were held by the International Olympic Committee with sport officials from many countries and leaders of various International Federations. At the sessions of the International Olympic Committee, some members of the International Olympic Committee spoke in favour of conceding to the National Olympic Committees and International Federations the right to have their representatives on the International Olympic Committee.

In this connection it seems to us appropriate to remind about the meeting between the International Olympic Committee Executive Board and the leaders of the International Federations in Evian, in 1957 when the representatives of the Federations of wrestling, swimming and others, expressing the view-point of their organizations, declared about the necessity to include the Presidents of the Federations recognized by the International Olympic Committee to the International Olympic Committee membership. At the meeting between the International Olympic Committee Executive Board and representatives of the National Olympic Committees

also in Evian as well as in Tokyo, in 1958, the proposals were made to the effect that the National Olympic Committees should send their representatives to the International Olympic Committee.

In our opinion, these problems still remain to be a rightful and urgent matter at present. Indeed, one cannot accept it as logical that the International Sport Federations which organize and direct amateur sport and conduct their competitions at the Olympic Games, are deprived, at the same time, of the right to take part in the activities of the body governing the Olympic Games.

The National Olympic Committees carrying on the main work in development of the Olympic Movement in their countries and Organizing the participation of sportsmen in the Olympic contests find themselves in a similar position. The present way of forming the International Olympic Committee does not unfortunately make it possible for the National Olympic Committees to be represented in it and does not help the International Olympic Committee in maintaining permanent contacts with them. The inadequacy of relationship between the International Olympic Committee and different countries is indicated by the fact that while recognizing 91 National Olympic Committees now the International Olympic Committee includes the members for 48 countries only.

Recently the International Olympic Committee Executive Board has periodically arranged meetings with representatives of the National Committees and International Federations. With all the usefulness of such meetings, their organization does not satisfactorily settle a problem concerning the role of the National Committees and International Federations in the International Olympic Committee.

Proceeding from the considerations mentioned above and being guided by a sincere desire to promote further development of the Olympic Movement and increase of the role of the International

Olympic Committee, the Olympic Committee of the U.S.S.R. states that it supports the proposals made earlier by some International Sport Federations and Olympic Committees of several countries regarding an alteration of the procedure to be taken to form the International Olympic Committee.

Assuming as basis the principle of extensive and full representation of the International Federations and National Committees in the International Olympic Committee, the Olympic Committee of the U.S.S.R., for its part, moves the following proposals on the question of forming and structure of the International Olympic Committee.

1) The International Olympic Committee shall consist of :

— the present members of the International Olympic Committee. They retain :

— the Presidents of the National Olympic Committees recognized by the International Olympic Committee, the former to be given the right, if the necessity arises, to replace their representative in the International Olympic Committee;

— the Presidents of the International Sport Federations recognized by the International Olympic Committee, the Federations also to be given the right, if necessary, to replace their representatives in the International Olympic Committee.

If such proposal is accepted, the International Olympic Committee will be composed of :

— the 64 present members of the International Olympic Committee;

— approximately 115 Presidents of the National Olympic Committees (in case these Committees are set up in all the countries of the world) ;

— 35 Presidents of the International Federations (taking into consideration that in addition to the 25 Federations up to 10 new Federations for the most popular sports may be recognized by the International Olympic Committee).

Thus, the International Olympic Committee will be a broad representative international organization, consisting of 210-215 persons.

2) The structure of the International Olympic Committee may be the following :

a. *the General Assembly*, including all the members of the International Olympic Committee, meets every four years (during the Olympic Games) and deals with the principal questions of the International Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games (place and dates of the Olympic Games, their programme, etc.).

The General Assembly elects a President, Vice-President and members of the Executive Committee;

b. *the Executive Committee* carries out the decisions, adopted by the General Assembly, fulfils the practical work of the International Olympic Committee during the period between the meetings of the General Assembly, sees that the Charter of the Olympic Games is observed and the International Olympic Committee's finances are properly managed, decides the questions concerning the calling and Agendas of the General Assembly, elects the Bureau of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meets when the necessity arises, but, at least, once a year.

It would be expedient to fix the strength of the Executive Committee in 50-55 persons (International Olympic Committee President, 8 to 9 Vice-Presidents, Secretary-General, Presidents of some International Sport Federations, Presidents of several National Olympic Committees and prominent leaders of the Olympic Movement).

c. *the Bureau of the Executive Committee* is composed of the International Olympic Committee President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary-General. The Bureau meets when the necessity arises and draws up the agendas for discussion by the Executive Committee, deals with the routine matters;

d. *the International Olympic Committee Chancellery*, working under the Secretary-General, carries on everyday's correspondence and manages the International Olympic Committee affairs. A staff of the Chancellery is to be determined by the Executive Committee.

The Olympic Committee of the U.S.S.R. also submits for your consideration some propositions concerning the International Olympic Committee finances and satisfying of requests of the International Federations with regard to getting by them certain sums from the Olympic competitions.

1) The finances of the International Olympic Committee must consist of the following receipts :

a. annual fees of the recognized National Olympic Committees and International Federations or subscriptions of the International Olympic Committee. Members paid also by the National Committees and International Federations. The sum of these fees is to be fixed by the General Assembly;

b. a percentage on the gate receipts at the Summer and Winter Olympic Games held;

c. an income from publishing and other activities.

2) The expenses for travels of the International Olympic Committee. Members to the meetings and the Olympic Games is to be born by the National Olympic Committees and International Federations.

3) The International Sport Federations which hold the competitions in their sport during the Olympic Games receive a percentage from the gate receipts at the Olympic Games to be determined by the International Olympic Committee.

The Olympic Committee of the U.S.S.R. requests to put these proposals to the agenda of the 55th session of the International Olympic Committee (München, May 1959) as well as to discuss them at the conference of the International Olympic Committee. Executive Board with representatives of the National Olympic Committees in Rome (May, 1959) and leaders of the International Sport Federations in München (May, 1959).

At the same time the Olympic Committee of the U.S.S.R. deems it useful that the International Olympic Committee Chancellery send out our letter to the International Olympic Committee Members and to all the recognized National Olympic Committees and International Federations with a view to giving them an opportunity to study the contents of the proposals before the above-mentioned conferences and International Olympic Committee session.

We do hope that the International Olympic Committee will pay due attention to this letter and give its support to the proposals made therein.