

# Minutes of the Conference of the Executive Board

*of the International Olympic Committee  
with the delegates of the National Olympic Committees  
Athens 1961 - Senate House - June 17th*

*The Conference opens at 9.30 a.m.*

List of Presence: Annex N° 1.

Agenda: Annex N° 2.

Chairman: Mr. Avery Brundage, President of the International Olympic Committee.

*Mr. Brundage* extends a hearty welcome to all the delegates of the National Olympic Committees and declares outright that there is a misunderstanding with regard to the programme of the Tokyo Games. No decision has been taken by the International Olympic Committee who has no intention to minimize the importance of the Games as long as all the sports are suitably controlled. We aim at enhancing the prestige of the Games and to achieve this we need the support of the National Olympic Committees.

## AIM OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

*The President of the Olympic Committee of Czechoslovakia* agrees with the opinion expressed by the International Olympic Committee in Mr. Brundage's circular-letter No. 179 which deals with the aims of the Olympic Movement.

*Mr. Victor Boin* (Belgium) states that we have now come to the turning point of history. Big problems are confronting us and we must give up utopian ideas. Baron de Coubertin's work must go on but we must find new methods based on human and honest formulas more adapted to our modern times.

*Mr. Reczek* (Poland) thinks that we should incorporate the presidents of all the Olympic organizations in the International Olympic Committee.

*Mr. Fried* (Austria) considers that we may be proud of the work accomplished although we must not lose sight of the far-reaching influence and development of the Olympic Movement and take into account the fact that Olympic problems should be discussed openly by the International Olympic Committee.

*Mr. Zezeli Andra* (Yugoslavia) suggests that the International Olympic Committee convenes every two or three years a special Congress concerning the Olympic Movement for the purpose of discussing all the questions and vital problems pertaining to this movement and the Games.

## REGIONAL GAMES

*Mr. Fried* (Austria) takes this opportunity for thanking the Organizing Committees of the Games in Rome and in Squaw Valley. *Mr. Brundage* moves that a vote of thanks and congratulations be sent to these two Committees.

*Mr. Sondhi* (India), speaking in his capacity of Vice-President of the Asiatic Games, is of opinion that the main objects of the Regional Games is primarily to promote friendship and maintain physical efficiency and well-being among the participants. The cost of the Regional Games is becoming unbearable, we ought to reduce their importance and concentrate our efforts on the physical education of the young. He suggests that only fundamental sports should figure on the programme of the Regional Games because the organization of these sports necessitate smaller financial outlays. The team sports should be abolished with the exception of one or two.

*Mr. Brundage* shares the fears expressed by Mr. Sondhi and considers that there are too many Regional Games. In the course of an Olympiad, some countries participate sometimes in as many as three Games, not counting the Olympic Games.

*Mr. Glowinski* (Israel) admits that the International Olympic Committee grants its patronage to certain Regional Games. He regrets that at one of these Games, the State of Israel has been flouted because of racial discrimination applied in the case of his country. He asks the International Olympic Committee to give its patronage only to Regional Games in countries where there is not racial discrimination of any kind. He agrees with Mr. Sondhi's ideas. *Mr. Brundage* emphasizes the fact that the International Olympic Committee grants its patronage only to countries where the Regional Games are conducted in accordance with the Olympic Rules. The International Olympic Committee cannot be held responsible for anything happening at these Games. The following speakers are heard on the subject of the Regional Games: *Mr. Pelsjak* (USSR), *Mr. Yekutieli* (Israel) and *Mr. Macdonald* (Jamaica). The latter was President of the Central American and Caribbean Games in 1962, he asks that the International Olympic Committee appoints a technical Commission charged to help the organizers, a fairly long period before the Games take place. The expansion and popularity enjoyed by the Regional Games call for this measure. *Mr. Brundage* will propose an amendment to Rule 37, he mentioned that he already discussed the matter with the International Federation at the Conference which took place yesterday.

## USSR PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

(See text addressed to all the Olympic organizations before the Session.)

*Mr. W. Romanov* (USSR) presents his committee's proposal. *Mr. Brundage* replies that the

International Olympic Committee must be independent and that it must respect the Charter instituted by Pierre de Coubertin. The relations between the International Olympic Committee and the National Olympic Committees have always been most friendly and profitable. The growing success of the Games is admired allround, but on the other hand, a reorganization is asked for. It was due to the initiative of the International Olympic Committee that most of the International Federations were created. In 1894, there were only two International Federations, and one for the Winter sports. The preconized members as *ex-officio* members are not independent and cannot therefore express their judgement freely.

\*

*Mr. Victor Boin* (Belgium) expresses the views of the Belgian Olympic Committee with regard to amateurism at the Olympics. (See Annex No. 3.)

*Mr. Fried* (Austria) points out the case of an Hungarian athlete who wished to participate in the Games of Rome with the Austrian contingent, this athlete had of course been naturalized and had become an Austrian citizen. This double-nationality case was the subject of a protest from the Austrian Olympic Committee. This matter will come under discussion at the International Olympic Committee. Session next week.

The *Chairman* explains that the entries of the athletes must conform to the rules of the International Olympic Committee and those of the I. F. In this particular case, this athlete is subject to the I.A.A.F. ruling. On the International Olympic Committee's request this International Federation decided to adjust its rules.

*M. Aguirre* (Mexico) put forward the following motions made by his Committee. (Annex No. 4.)

*Morning Session adjourned at 1 o'clock and resumed at 3 o'clock.*

*Mr. Aurel Duma* (Rumania) and *Jeliasko Kolev* (Bulgaria) support the USSR's proposals with regard to the reorganization of the International Olympic Committee.

*Admiral Lappas* (Greece) gave some information concerning the new Olympic Academy founded in Olympia by the Olympic Committee of Greece. This Academy is to open its doors next week for the first time.

*Mr. Jean Dame* (France) imparts the opinion of the French Olympic Committee concerning the Russian proposals. (See Annex No. 5.)

*Dr. Schöbel* (East Germany) pleads in favour of increasing the Programme of the Games and is of opinion that all sports should be admitted at this great Festival of youth symbolized by the Olympic Games.

*Mr. von Frenckell* (Finland) hopes that the International Olympic Committee will continue to adhere to the fundamental principles as laid down in the Olympic Rules and Regulations. In accepting the Russian proposals, the International Olympic Committee would inevitably cause the destruction

of Olympism. As far as the programme of the Games is concerned, abuses must be avoided, this does not necessarily imply a reduction, but a more efficient control of the sports. He suggests that we should not reject altogether the Russian proposals but retain those points which are objective and helpful to the Olympic movement in general.

*Mr. K.S. Duncan* (Great-Britain) made a proposal. (See Annex No. 6.)

*Mr. Farouk Saraj* (Afghanistan) requests the International Olympic Committee to pay more heed to the countries which have no member of the International Olympic Committee.

*Mr. Hegyi Gyula* (Hungary) and *Mr. F. Kroutil* (Czechoslovakia) both approve the project of reorganizing the International Olympic Committee as proposed by the USSR members. *Mr. Kroutil* goes on to say that he is in favour of retaining the National hymns and the National flags at the protocol ceremonies.

#### THE INNSBRUCK DELEGATION

is introduced, since there are no questions, the delegation withdraws.

#### TASKS INCUMBENT ON THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

*Mr. Brundage* states that in order to promote the Olympic principles the first duty falling on the National Olympic Committees is the developing of amateur sport and physical education in every country. Then comes guarding and enforcing amateur rules and lastly, encouraging Fine Arts within the Games.

#### SHOULD OLYMPIC WINNERS BE LIMITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GAMES ONLY ONCE?

*Mr. Brundage* declares that he is not responsible for this idea, but it had been made to the International Olympic Committee from various quarters. This measure would be the mean of preventing an athlete champion at the Games from capitalizing his athletic form in one way or the other. The *Chairman* says that the International Olympic Committee is generally speaking opposed to this idea and he proposes to let the matter drop, this is agreed.

#### TOKYO GAMES

The dates proposed for the Games are from October 11th to October 25th 1964. As regard to the Programme no decision has yet been taken in spite of the groundless rumours which have spread among the public and the press.

#### INNSBRUCK GAMES

The dates proposed for these Games are from January 29th to February 9th. The Programme will be identical to that of Squaw Valley with the addition of Bobsleigh and Racing Luge events. The International Olympic Committee will decide at the Session next week.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

On Mr. Brundage's request, the National Olympic Committees declare themselves satisfied if these Conferences are held every other year, the next Conference is to take place in Europe in 1963.

*The Conference ended at 4.30 p.m.*

The President: Avery Brundage  
The Chancellor: Otto Mayer.

---

### Annex No. 1

The List of Presence figures in the French text on the page 21.

### Annex No. 2

#### AGENDA

- 1) Welcome by President Avery Brundage.
- 2) Objectives of Olympic Movement (Circular-letter No. 179).
- 3) Review Games of the XVII Olympiad and VIII Olympic Winter Games and possibilities of improvement.
- 4) General discussion Regional Games.
- 5) Problems of National Olympic Committees. (Circular-letter No. 170).
- 6) Duty of National Olympic Committees to promote Olympic principles (Circular-letter No. 177).
- 7) Shall Olympic first place winners be limited to one Games?
- 8) Penalties for non-enforcement of Olympic Rules.
- 9) General discussion Games of XVIII Olympiad and IX Olympic Winter Games.

### Annex No. 3

#### OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF BELGIUM

- a) Preventing an excess of nationalism seems a defensible measure but it should not go so far as to restrain the use of the national flags and national hymns.
- b) Improving the standard of umpiring and judging ought to be one of the chief concern of the International Federations.
- c) Limiting the entries to competitors with an adequate standard of athletic ability seems an

excellent measure but it is likely to be difficult to apply it to all sports.

- d) The rules on amateurism are sufficiently rigorous, there is no need to reinforce them, but it is important that they should be strictly applied in all their clauses.
- e) It would evidently be highly desirable to see the Games cease to be a spring-board in view of a professional career, but to realize this aim seems very difficult.
- f) The most difficult sports to administer with regard to amateurism are those drawing big gate-money and which have not settled in a precise manner the dividing line between professionalism and amateurism.

### Annex No. 4

#### PROPOSED BY THE MEXICAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Mr. President,

According to the Olympic Rules, the International Olympic Committee rightly leans on the National Olympic Committees of each country to foster and organize the Olympic movement.

In your public utterances, Mr. President, you have often referred to this relationship. Only, last night, at the opening session, you mentioned that on entry blanks three signatures are required, 1. that of the athlete, 2. that of the national federation and lastly that of the National Olympic Committee.

In the relationships between the federations and the Olympic Committee, there is a gap which we must close. Recording to the Olympic Rules, the National Olympic Committees must have representatives of its national federations which are recognized by the International Federation.

But to extend recognition the International Federations are not required to consult with the national Olympic committee, which knows more about the conduct of sports in its own country than any foreign body. This is the gap we must close. For the consideration of this body, we present the following resolution.

Therefore

*Be it Resolved*

That this body of National Olympic Committees strongly urge the International Olympic Committee to sponsor a bilateral agreement between the International Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committees, whereby each National Olympic Committee shall not recognize a national sport federation which has not obtained its recognition by its corresponding International Sports Federation, and that the International Sports Federation should recognize only as its member that national federation which has the recommendation of its National Olympic Committee.

*Enrique C. Aguirre, delegate.*

Athens, June 17th, 1961.

## Annex No. 5

### FRENCH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

I listened this morning to the statements made by some of my colleagues of the National Olympic Committees when commenting the USSR proposals.

We could discuss this matter for hours and yet not find an objective solution to it. I shall endeavour to be brief as we are so often told to do by our President Brundage.

The International Olympic Committee is self-recruiting. Baron de Coubertin alone chose the first fourteen members, since then, the International Olympic Committee has considerably increased and renewed itself by means of self-recruiting or co-optation. This principle is the corner-stone on which the International Olympic Committee is built. It is certainly possible to destroy this edifice, but is the International Olympic Committee must disappear, it will be replaced by other international organizations which, we can easily foretell, will rapidly become the prey of political squabbles and sport rivalries.

USSR proposed that in addition to the actual sixty-seven members of the International Olympic Committee who would remain for life, there would be ninety-six presidents of the National Olympic Committees elected or designed according to very different ways adapted to the various countries or different sport.

This Parliament or Senate of 200 members would be a place for judicial combats of all different forms of nationalism and quarrels, when sport would be set one against the other. Would this be more effective than the present International Olympic Committee? I do not think so, on the contrary. I suspect it would be the reverse.

In the note sent by USSR to all the National Olympic Committees and the International Federation, we are told of decolonization. I must say, France did not wait for external interventions in order to carry out decolonization in every field, especially in the field of sport when France developed sport in Africa and has just prove this by organizing Games in the French speaking African territories.

By placing this problem which has already been solved on the same basis than the other questions: Olympics Programme and reorganization of the International Olympic Committee and (accessorily referring to a new definition of amateurism) we find that the political intent is obvious.

I trust that in the course of the 58th Session, the International Olympic Committee will reaffirm its allegiance to the principles which have built its development in less than 70 years without rejecting for all that *a priori* all the reasonable reforms aiming at promoting the expansion of sport in every country without distinction of country or persons on racial, religious or political grounds.

Signed:

Jean Dame,

French Olympic Committee.

## Annex No. 6

### INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE - NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES. SESSION, June 17th, 1961

Mr. K.S. Duncan (General Secretary British Olympic Association) stated that National Olympic Committees had many problems, but with his National Olympic Committee, it was not the International Olympic Committee itself. He supported it in its present form, welcomed its freedom of action, and was glad that its members were not delegates from any other bodies.

His main problems were concerned with the International Olympic Committee Rules Book, which National Olympic Committees had to administer. This at the moment contained many inconsistencies.

Page 78: 'Contest between individuals'. How was this possible in team sports? One knew what was meant, but the rule did not say so.

Page 96a: Not eligible for Olympic competition those who have competed for money.

The International Olympic Committee and National Olympic Committees all knew that those competing in Shooting events had money prizes. He knew that shooters were amateurs since their expenses and that of their ammunition far exceeded any cash return. But the rule should make this exception clear.

Rule 48: Free passes for Attachés had been omitted. He would like to see restored passes 'for one representative of each national federation at the venue of his sport'.

Consideration should also be given to teams Headquarters staff in the Olympic Village who should have passes to the competitors stand at all venues.

Next the Amateur Rules. There were still two sports in the Olympic Programme for which there was no amateur definition in the rules of their International Federations. This raised very great difficulties for National Olympic Committees.

Prior to 1948 the amateur regulations of the International Olympic Committee were those of the International Federations. Since there an overall International Olympic Committee Amateur Rule had been added. It would be far more realistic to return to the former method, and for the International Olympic Committee to negotiate with each International Federation to bring their rules more closely together. Thereby National Olympic Committees problems would be reduced considerably. There would be slight differences between sports but National Olympic Committees could best administer the rules of the International Federations.

Finally he urged the International Olympic Committee to return to their system of 1936 and appoint a permanent administrator moving from the Games to another. This would present continuity and simplify the negotiations of National Olympic Committees with Organizing committees.

K.S. Duncan.