

CORRESPONDENCE

We have received from the Portuguese Olympic Committee, the following rectification of statement. Its letter contains an official statement made by the European League of Association Football junior Executive Board, which justifies the attitude of the Portuguese organizers of the junior football tournament.

From this 'communiqué' we observe that the visas were actually granted. Since this was the case, we cannot help thinking that it was unfortunate that they were granted only seven days before the beginning of the tournament, the Portuguese Government having somewhat 'delayed the issue of this matter' (*sic*).

Lisbonne, October 26th 1961.

*To the Chancellor of the International Olympic Committee
Lausanne.*

We read with our usual interest the Bulletin No 75, and were particularly interested in the article entitled: 'When politicians interfere...' on page 42. As you can see for yourself from the enclosed copy of the communication of March 29th 1961, issued by the European League of Association Football, the facts were somewhat different and misrepresented since the teams of the countries, which withdrew from the European Junior Football Championships, were duly informed beforehand that their visa for entering into Portugal would be sanctioned. Since your article implies that the Portuguese Authorities failed to grant the necessary visas, we would be obliged if you

would ensure that this rectification appears in the next issue of the Bulletin.

There are indeed several cases to be found wanting, such as the facts, which are mentioned in this same Bulletin No 75, and it is for this reason that we ask that the case attributed to Portugal be put right, for, it is unfortunate that non-existent facts should be mentioned.

Signed for the Portuguese Olympic Committee

Anibal Vieira,
General-Secretary.

With reference to the article we published in our last edition regarding a European cyclist of South Africa, suspended by his Federation for having followed a race reserved for coloured men (information given by the *Daily Mail*) we received the following letter, through the Olympic Association of South Africa, from Mr. Geoghengan, President of the South African Cycling Federation. We produce it with pleasure.

Durban (South Africa), October 19th 1961.
To the International Olympic Committee
Lausanne

Dear Sirs,

In connection with the suspension of for the alleged racing in competition with the coloured cyclists, as reported in the *World Press* and in your last Bulletin, I wish to state categorically that Thiart was not suspended by the Executive of the South African Cycling Association (S. A. C. F.) for the reason that he rode in competition with the coloured boys. The suspension was imposed on Thiart for an infringement of the S.A.C.F. Rules of Racing, in that he rode in an unregistered r Rule 103 says: 'Any rider competing in any cycle race not stated to be held under the rules of the S.A.C.F. or at any proclaimed meeting or against any suspended rider, shall be liable to suspension.'

The club promoting the race, in which competed, is not affiliated to the South African Non-European Cycling Association which, in turn, is affiliated to the S.A.C.F.

Prior to the last Olympics, the at their expense, organized trials for the Non-European Cyclists at the Durban regrettably the times and performances at these trials were very much below standard, and as a result not included in the team. It is the duty of any controlling body to select only the best to represent their country at the

Yours faithfully
J.C. Geoghengan.