

*The Chairman  
of the 'Maccabi World Union'  
writes to us:*

*We have received from the Chairman of the Maccabi World Union following letter with the request for publication. We just wish to mention that the remarks published in our last Bulletin were taken from the French paper L'Équipe of Paris.*

Mr. Otto Mayer,  
Chancellor  
International Olympic Committee,  
Mon-Repos,  
Lausanne,  
Switzerland.

14th December 1961.

'Dear Chancellor Mayer,

'I have read with interest the article on page 28 of the International Olympic Committee Bulletin, No. 76, on the subject of 'Multiplicity of Games'. As reference is made to the Maccabiah Games, participation in which is alleged to be confined to members of one race or religion, I feel it necessary to inform you that, whilst we are encouraging international competition, with a view to promoting a higher standard in sports among young Jewish people all over the world, we have, at no time, debarred from participation in invitation events or exhibitions, any person on the grounds of race or religion. In all previous Games, teams from India, as well as 'black' Jews from the West Indies, participated actively in all events. During the Closing Ceremony of the 6th Maccabiah Games, John Thomas gave an exhibition of High Jumping, whilst Rafer Johnson gave a demonstration in Discus and Javelin throwing — to the applause of 50,000 spectators.

'A project promoted by the Maccabi World Union, namely, the International Youth Centre, recently completed at the cost of some 2 million dollars, was inspired by an idea to encourage tourism to Israel by young men and women, regardless of nationality, race or religion. Over 500 participants in the 6th Maccabiah Games took up residence at the 'Village' during last August and September. Since then, it has been accommodating sportsmen and students from such countries as Nepal, Nigeria and Ghana. Shortly, we hope to extend hospitality also to groups of young Christian pilgrims. Apart from living

accommodation, facilities are also provided there for training in a variety of sports. We have already an impressive large-sized swimming pool, in addition to a basketball court, a soccer pitch and, shortly, we also hope to provide a tennis court and a running track. A sports hall, named after H.R.H. Duke of Edinburgh (who is taking a very keen interest in the project) is being equipped for training in indoor sports and other recreational activities.

'The Movement, which I have the honour to represent, has done all it could to break down race barriers and to promote International friendship by means of sports. Unfortunately, Israelis (as well as some Jews) have been debarred from participating in the Mediterranean Games — a promotion which is being regularly organized under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee. To my regret, and to that of our many supporters and sympathisers, the International Olympic Committee has, so far, proved unable to exercise sufficient influence with the organizers of some of the Mediterranean Games held in the past, with a view to prevailing upon them to abandon a policy of racial or political discrimination affecting the reputation of this very much advertised International Sports event.

'I hope that you will see your way clear to publishing my statement in one of the next Bulletins, as I am anxious to dispel any impression among your very many readers that the Maccabiah Games, and their organizers, the Maccabi World Union, practise racial discrimination in any shape or form.

I am,  
dear Chancellor Mayer,  
Yours sincerely,

*P. Gildesgames*  
Chairman, World Executive'.

Notice from the Editor: *Regarding the last paragraph of the above letter, we wish to mention that the International Olympic Committee, in spite of the fact that it gives its patronage to some Regional Games, does not interfere in the internal organization of such Games, providing that they are conducted in accordance with the minimum requirements mentioned in special rules prepared by it.*