

violations of Olympic principles. The fundamental basis of the Olympic code is that no discrimination because of race, religion or political affiliation is permitted. Participants are welcomed on their merits, no matter what political creed, what colour or what Church. The International Olympic Committee deals with national olympic committees and not with governments. In its rules, the terms 'nation' and 'country' refer to geographical areas, districts or territories within the limits of which an olympic committee, recognized by the International Olympic Committee, functions or operates, and not to political entities.

For these reasons it has been possible, despite political pressure and interference, to present to the astonished gaze of the world and especially of the politicians a united German Olympic team composed of both East and West German athletes dressed in the same uniform and marching behind the same leaders and the same flag. It was also possible to have Russian participation in the Games of the XVI. Olympiad in Melbourne in 1956, although the U.S.S.R. and Australia had no diplomatic relationships. And at the same Games there was a Hungarian team rescued from Budapest by the International Olympic Committee despite the complications of the Hungarian revolution. Many other achievements might be cited.

The International Olympic Committee is one organization that has refused to admit political interference from any quarter and, as a result, Olympic rules and regulations are recognized and followed in hundred countries.

The International Olympic Committee stands unequivocally against the use of sport as a political instrument or weapon and will not award the Olympic Games to any city unless free access for all recognized teams is guaranteed. It is now suggesting that all the International Amateur Sport Federations adopt similar regulations. This will confine all important international events to countries and cities which permit free entry to all recognized teams.

These amateur sport organizations have no police or army, and have no money to enforce their rules but they do have the strength of a great and universal idea and it is hoped that the pressure of public opinion will be sufficient to force respect for, and conformity with, this basic Olympic principle of no political interference with amateur sport, designed to develop a better understanding between all peoples and a happier and more peaceful world.

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International Olympic Committee.

## Statement from the International Olympic Committee

*concerning political interference  
in sport*

*(sent to the World Press on March 26th 1962)*

Recent developments involving political interference in the world of sport have given great concern to the International Olympic Committee. At the meeting of its Executive Board in Lausanne, on March 2nd and 3rd, President Marc Hodler of the Fédération Internationale de Ski reported on the exclusion of a team from its World Championships in Chamonix which led to the withdrawal of other teams and the cancellation of the World Championship events. The same thing happened at the World Ice Hockey Championships at Colorado Springs. Occurrences of this kind are most regrettable and may have more and more violent repercussions that will threaten the very existence of organized international amateur sport and the Olympic Games.

Since the Olympic Movement and its related events form one of the few activities that give promise of a slackening of the cold war with incalculable benefits to the human race, it is sad to see these inexcusable