

Dr. Diem was a true Olympian who, with all his heart, devoted himself to the realization of the Olympic idea. I do not wish to enumerate his services rendered to the German sport. I merely wish to recall Dr. Diem to the memories of those who knew him, as the man who, with untiring efforts, advocated the Olympic idea and tried to realize it. His attitude is well known to all members of the International Olympic Committee. His work in the Olympic field, which was crowned by his organizing and carrying through the Olympic Games in Berlin, is unforgettable. Today still, every colleague to whom I talk tells me that the Olympic Games in Berlin had been a sublime avowal of Dr. Diem of the Olympic idea. And he was proud of the fact that he was able to carry through these Games without any political influence, which he did in effect. He was the father of the idea of the Olympic torch relay, which has now become a highlight of the Olympic Games. He was a valuable Olympic adviser to both the former President of the International Olympic Committee, Sigfrid Edström, and to the present President, Avery Brundage. His close acquaintance with Baron Pierre de Coubertin is well known. When I last visited Pierre de Coubertin in Lausanne shortly before his death, he said to me : 'I congratulate you for having Dr. Diem, he is the true Olympian. His attitude towards the Olympic idea is identical with mine and I am happy to have found in him a great friend.'

Dr. Diem participated in all Olympic Games ; he was the only German who had been invited to the 1948 Games as personal guest of honour. There was always a feeling of warmth and friendliness when Dr. Diem appeared. In Helsinki, in Melbourne and in Rome, he was guest of honour of the organizing committees ; and on all these occasions he was intent on closely watching the performance of the Olympic Games and

## † Dr. Carl Diem is dead!

Not only every German connected with the Olympic movement, but the whole Olympic world is left in dismay by this news.

on assisting the organizers with his inexhaustible advice. And now Dr. Diem is dead ! We Germans grieve over his death and we are inconsolable that he left us so unexpectedly. But I know that many Olympic friends, especially the members of the International Olympic Committee, will mourn

with us, for they, too, have lost an Olympic friend. I am convinced that his memory will always be dear to the whole Olympic world.

*Dr. Karl Ritter von Hall.*

Munich, December 1962.