

# Minutes of the Conference of the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee

*with the Delegates of the International Federation*

*Lausanne — Hôtel de la Paix — February 8th 1963*

## ORDER OF THE DAY: SPORT AND POLITICS

*List of presence:* (See Annex N° 1 in the French text.)

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

*Mr. Brundage* welcomes the delegates and notifies the absence of only 5 federations, namely that of Bobsleigh, Equestrian sports, Judo, Skating and Modern Pentathlon. All these federations sent their apologies for not attending the Conference.

*The Chairman* gives a brief account of the work achieved by the Executive Board which met the day before and informs the assembly that it passed a resolution whereby the Indonesian Olympic Committee was to be suspended for an unlimited period on account of the deplorable incidents which took place at Djakarta on the occasion of the celebrations of the IVth Asiatic Games for which the Indonesian Committee was fully responsible. In addition, the Executive Board gave its approval with regard to the measures taken by the International Basketball Federation which decided to withdraw its worldchampionships attributed to Manila and transfer these elsewhere (December 1962) because the Philippines Government refused to grant visas to the Yugoslavian team.

*The president* insists once more on the fact that the best means to fight political interferences and other forms of pressure is for the International Olympic Committee, the International Federations and the National Olympic Committees to work in close collaboration. He reads a statement which he drafted to this effect and asks the delegates to express their views on the subject which chiefly concerns the political interference in sport.

*Mr. William R. Jones* (Basketball), *the Marquess of Exeter* (International Amateur Athletic Federation), *Lt.-Col. R.H. Russell* (Boxing), and *Mr. Ch. Coquereau* (Canoeing) discuss the statement submitted and opt for its approval, subject to a few modifications. They report a few cases of political interference which took place in their sport and discuss on general lines the problem which is this assembly's chief concern.

*Mr. G.-D. Sondhi* (International Olympic Committee) opts for the application of strong measures and insists of the fact that the International Federations fully supported by the International Olympic Committee should act as an entity. The boycotting of a sport on account of racial discrimination in one country should automatically entail the boycotting of all other sports in that particular country as well as the suspension of its Olympic Committee.

*Mr. Armand Massard* (International Olympic Committee) makes a digression when he reiterates the proposal made on several occasions to the International Olympic Committee with regard to the suppression of the national hymns at the protocol ceremonials of the Olympic Games.

*Mrs. Frith* (Archery) is of the opinion that the International Olympic Committee should guide and advise the International Federations in cases when the Government or Nato, refuse to grant visas at the last moment. She approves the idea of creating a mail box which would give the means to the International Federations to contact each other and discuss their problems. Above all, the guilty National Olympic Committees should be heard before any decision towards their suspension is taken.

*Sir St. Rous* (Football) thinks that it is incumbent on the International Olympic Committee to be the 'Executive power'. One member of the International Olympic Committee should be present at the Regional Games, empowered to bring the Federations together with the view to discuss the development of sport. Racial discrimination must be suppressed especially if it is deliberate. However, since the suspension of the Football Federation in South Africa, it has won many adepts! South Africa has made great progress with regard to the assimilation of coloured people. Governments are not always responsible, as it is sometimes the ministers in charge of sport who are biased and cannot be independent, thus they are responsible for creating scissions within the National Olympic Committees. He would like to see more frequent contacts between the International Olympic Committee and the International Federations.

*Mr. Brundage* points out that the matter concerning the executive power of the International Olympic Committee over the International Federations is very delicate since the latter are quite rightly very anxious to retain their independence.

*Mr. Ivor Montagu* (Table-Tennis)-also observations that his federation had to postpone its championships of Europe owing to Nato refusal to grant visas.

In the case of Indonesia, we must avoid to allude to the past because the very fact of suspending Indonesia constitute an act of discrimination as long as there are other cases elsewhere which have not been penalized.

*Mr. Brundage* proposes to draw up a general agreement to be sent to all the National Olympic Committees. It will be up to them to discuss it with their respective government and then to report on the matter.

*Mr. State* (Weight-Lifting): His federation acted on a frank and deliberate basis on the occasion

of the Asiatic Games celebrations when it withdrew the authorization to compete, under threat of sanctions of suspension of its athletes, since its rules have been violated.

As far as the Mediterranean Games are concerned he is of the opinion that, if Israel is not invited to compete in them, no athlete should be given permission to compete. As far as the question of Nato is concerned, we should deal with it very firmly.

*Mr. Roger Coulon* (Wrestling): We must establish a joint line of action between the International Olympic Committee and the International Federations. Sanctions must be taken in full accord by both governing bodies and applied without any possible discussions.

It would be unfair to apply sanctions on the National Olympic Committees when the governments are actually responsible.

As far as past occurrences are concerned, he would prefer to pass a vote of censure to actual suspension while taking in consideration the inexperience and the distance of the country. But we must be firm and severe in future, especially with regard to the Mediterranean Games. The speaker thinks it is wrong to refuse recognition to the Mediterranean Games and yet to authorize athletes to compete in them. We must be more strict and refuse their participation, otherwise the authority of the International Olympic Committee will be adversely affected.

*Mr. Andrianov* (Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee) proposes a solution of the problem in a combined effort on the part of the International Olympic Committee, the National Olympic Committees, the International Federations and all other sport organizations with a view to eliminate all forms of discriminations. He cites cases of political interferences which took place in the Philippines and in Germany. We should appeal to public opinion in order to stamp out discrimination. He supports Mr. Jones' proposal and thinks that the resolution presented by the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee should be accepted with one accord.

*Mr. Brundage* recalls an incident which occurred at the Session of the International Olympic Committee in Sofia, in 1957, when the American Government refused to issue him a visa to enable him to travel to Sofia... however, on the face of public opinion intervention, the press supported Mr. Brundage arguments, and the government recalled its decision.

*Mr. René Chesal* (Cycling) agrees with the proposal made by the Executive Board with regard to the Olympic Games and the Regional Games, but he enters a reservation as far as the World championships are concerned on account of the tripartite Commission.

*Mr. Libaud* (Volleyball) The Executive Board's resolution will only be of value if accompanied by sanctions. Unanimity of acceptance is essential.

As far as past incidents are concerned, he thinks no sanctions should be applied. The resolution should only be passed at the end of the debates and should refrain to specify special cases in order to avoid discriminations. He advocates the idea

of setting up a list of the countries which refuse visas and do not permit entries to all recognized teams in order to deprive them of the organization of the Olympic Games, Championships or Regional Games.

*Mr. Marc Hodler* (Skiing) supports the joint statement. He, however, fears that, if sanctions are applied to countries, National Olympic Committees and National Federations, we shall create a split and two groups of athletes will emerge: the penalized ones and the others! One must prevail on public opinion that sport is not the inheritance of the nationalist element of the population but is to be considered as an integral part of national life.

*Mr. Keller* (Rowing) proposes that the text of the final statement be distributed among the delegates in order to discuss it item by item.

*Mr. Willi Daume* (International Olympic Committee) explains how the German disagreement occurred. It is now satisfactorily settled and the athletes belonging to both zones will be able to meet.

*Mr. Brundage* mentions that an agreement has been concluded between both Germanies and will operate in 1964. On that score, all is in order.

*Mr. Ahearne* (Ice-Hockey) is of the opinion that each International Federation should have its own set of rules which must be observed and applied by the national federations.

A world charter is in itself an utopia. International sport must remain neutral but it is essential to be most realistic when elaborating this convention. It must not be adopted if all the clauses have not been submitted to a thorough investigation.

*Mr. Brundage* thinks that Mr. Ahearne takes too gloomy a view of the international sport situation.

*Mr. Scott* (Swimming) recalls the fact that the main object of this gathering is to decide if sanctions are to be applied as preconized in the joint declaration and this in accordance with the seriousness of the offence such as passing a blame, a suspension or striking of the list. He is of opinion that passing a vote of censure is sufficient to deal with both cases that of Indonesia and that of the Mediterranean Games.

*Mr. Brundage* proposes to appoint a Commission charged to draft the text of the declaration, composed as follows:

The Marquess of Exeter (Executive Board) of the International Olympic Committee.

Mr. Jones (International Basketball Federation).

Mr. Coulon (International Wrestling Federation).

Mr. Russel (International Boxing Federation).

Mr. Ferri (International Fencing Federation).

*Sitting adjourned at 13.30 h.*

*Sitting resumed at 15.30 h.*

*Mr. Brundage* submits a few problems to the International Federations.

*The Council of Europe* requests the International Olympic Committee to participate in an enquiry on Amateurism and on the Aid to underdeveloped countries. He replied that these problems concern

the International Federations. These matter fall within the competence of the International Olympic Committee and not of the Council of Europe.

The International Federations received the same circular.

*Germany and Korea.* Both National Committees of these countries have accepted on principle the idea of sending a united team to compete in the Tokyo 1964 Games. Only the matter of the Korean flag is still in abeyance but a satisfactory solution is bound to be reached.

*New countries and new Committees:* Everyday we receive new applications. Some of the countries have a very small population and have no experience. Dahomey and Exterior Mongolia have been recognized at the last Session of the International Olympic Committee. Up to date, we have more than 100 Committees and 25 to 30 new applications. This increase of National Committees complicate the organization of the Olympic Games as well as of the Olympic Village; the International Federations are now faced with a serious problem.

*Helsinki's Festival.* A letter of the International Swimming Federation brought to the attention of the assembly the fact of this Youth festival which included sport competitions. The swimmers were authorized to compete but later, this permission was withdrawn on account of the ruling of these contests, whereby the swimmers of Democratic China were competing when this nation is no longer recognized by this International Federation.

*Cuba* has changed its government, difficulties were already met before Castro's regime and are still prevailing. The government tries to organize competitions while exercising pressure on the National Olympic Committee. The latter, having refused to be influenced, the government refused to supply funds for sending a team to the Central American Games at Mexico. However a public appeal for funds was successful and supplied the necessary funds.

Last year the Central-American and Carribean Games took place in Jamaica. A member of the International Olympic Committee was sent to Kingston. These Games were well organized and ran normally except for a street brawl, when a dispute arose between Cuban and Governmental refugees. After the Cuban team return, controversial articles appeared in the press. We wrote to the Olympic Committee of that country for an explanation but got no reply.

At the present time, governmental pressure is applied on the representatives of the national federations. As the latter have a votive majority, a certain danger of political interference is to be feared.

*Official Victory Ceremony.* *Mr. Brundage* requests the personal opinion of the delegates of the International Federations as to the eventual suppression of the national hymns. This was put to the vote when 31 pronounced themselves in favour of the suppression of the hymns. *Mr. Brundage* is glad to observe that the majority of the delegates were in favour of this suppression. He hopes to obtain it some day from the members of the International Olympic Committee.

*Mr. Jones* (Basketball) announces that the text of the declaration is ready and is going to be submitted to the assembly.

*Mr. Scott* (Swimming) alludes once more to the question of the suppression of the hymns and expresses his surprise at the general desire of the assembly.

*Mr. Brundage* replies that they are badly played, sometimes unduly long and usually played from records. A fanfare of trumpets greeting the Olympic champion would be preferable. On the otherhand, he is in favour of retaining the national flags.

*Mr. Keller* (Rowing) says that his federation put in practice the suppression of the hymns and the flags when it held its World championships in Switzerland. We simply called out the name of the winner. It seemed to work most satisfactorily and this innovation met with success.

*Mr. State* (Weight-lifting) says that the most urgent problem is that of the Mediterranean Games. The International Federations must decide what their attitude is going to be towards the Organizing Committee of these Games if Israel is not admitted. He asks *Mr. Gemayel*, who is present, to give him information on this matter.

*Mr. Gemayel* replies that if Israel is not invited to participate in these Games it is on account of a rule unanimously accepted at Athens. Three countries are excluded: Lybia, Albania and Israel.

*Mr. Brundage* thinks that the delegates of the International Federations have not the required authority to sign the proposed declaration. They will have to submit it to their respective congress. On the otherhand, if there are differences of opinion ruling over minor points we can all accept the general principles of this convention. These differences of opinion over minor details are certainly going to be settled among us before the bi-annual Conference of the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee with the delegates of the International Federations scheduled to be held in Lausanne next June.

This present Conference happens to be a special meeting convened for the general examination of the problem, of political interference.

*Mr. Libaud* (Volleyball) says his federation will not be holding any conference in the next two months, therefore he will not be able to give a definite answer in June. He deplores the fact that the International Federations do not hold their meeting at Nairobi because all the details and guarantees to be supplied about the candidate cities will not be forthcoming by June.

*Mr. de Coquereaumont* (Canoeing) expresses the wish that the International Federations should meet the entire International Olympic Committee at these Conferences. He awaits the particulars to be supplied by the candidate cities.

*Mr. Paine* (Athletics) is against going to Nairobi on account of the cost. It was decided at Athens that the Conferences and Meetings were to take place in central Europe and this is the reason why Lausanne was chosen.

*Mr. Brundage*, confirms the fact that the International Federations who wish to come to Nairobi





