

## Sport and Politics *The National Skating Association informs us:*

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SKATING ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN, ADOPTED ON 27TH JUNE, 1963, TO BE SENT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION AND TO EACH MEMBER COUNTRY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Before allocating International Championships (World or European) to any National Association, Member of the International Skating Union, it has been the practice of the International Skating Union to require from the National Association concerned an assurance that intending competitors from any country will be afforded facilities for entering the country of the National Association concerned.

In 1953, the World Championships were awarded to Czechoslovakia (Prague). Shortly before these Championships were due to take

place, the Czechoslovak Government refused entry permits to two Canadian skaters, and, in consequence, the Council of the International Skating Union cancelled these Championships and transferred them to Switzerland (Davos).

The Council of the International Skating Union allocated the World Championships of 1963 to Italy (Cortina), having received an assurance on behalf of the Italian National Association that entry permits would be granted to intending competitors from all countries. Shortly before these Championships were due to start, the Council of the International Skating Union was informed that the Italian Government refused entry permits to competitors from East Germany. Instead of adopting the principle of 1953 in connection with Czechoslovakia, the Council of the International Skating Union decided to allow the World Championships to take

place in Italy, although intending competitors from East Germany were excluded, thereby yielding to discrimination, instead of cancelling these Championships or transferring them to another country, as was done in 1953.

The reason why the Italian Government refused entry permits for East German Skaters was because Italy is one of the fifteen N. A. T. O. States (thirteen in Europe and two in North America) which decided in 1961 to place restrictions upon East German nationals desirous of participating in International events in connection with athletics, sports, games and pastimes, consequent upon the erection of the wall between East and West Berlin.

The National Skating Association of Great Britain considers that it is regrettable that the Council of the International Skating Union yielded to discrimination in connec-

tion with World Championships in Figure Skating and Ice Dancing in 1963, and urges that the Council will not yield to discrimination in connection with any future International Championship.

The National Skating Association of Great Britain urges, further, that each member country of the International Skating Union whose National Government is a member of the North Atlantic Organization should strive to persuade its Government to assist in the removal of the restrictions placed upon the East Germans which has had the effect of depriving the western sporting circles from holding World and European Championships in various sports, including Skating.

sign.: *E. G. Coggins,*  
Secretary.

(*The Editor:* A most happy conclusion indeed.)