

## *The Meeting of the International Olympic Committee at Baden-Baden*

The 60th Meeting of the International Olympic Committee ought to have had an African setting. In Nairobi, Mr. Alexander, a member of the International Olympic Committee, and Mr. Perreau, Honorary Secretary of the Kenya Olympic Committee, had been working for many months to organize this first Olympic meeting in Black Africa. Then in August, the news broke that the Kenya Government had refused to grant visas to certain people who were to attend the meeting.

Mr. Alexander did his best to get this decision reversed. Politics, however, won the first round. Those who were present at Mon Repos on August 20th last, will remember with sorrow the telephone call during which the member for Kenya told the President, Mr. Brundage, that his efforts had been in vain.

In this way, the German Olympic Committee and its President, Mr. Willi Daume, took on the formidable task of organizing,

in seven weeks, the 60th Meeting of the International Olympic Committee.

Baden-Baden, the charming spa in the Black Forest, thus prepared itself to receive the largest attendance ever recorded in Olympic annals. This included 59 members of the International Olympic Committee — without counting three members elected during the meeting — the representatives of 73 National Olympic Committees, the delegations of the Organizing Committees of the Innsbruck and Tokyo Games, certain International Federations and also the candidate towns for the Games of the XIX Olympiad. The Press, fully represented, almost doubled the already impressive number of those taking part in the meeting.

When, at the end of a week of work, everyone departed, it was unanimously agreed that the German Olympic Committee had responded brilliantly to the challenge in performing a miracle.

From October 13th to 20th, perfection was the order of the day, whether in work

or play, hospitality or business. Success was complete. This attention to detail as well as the general organization, largely contributed to a harmonious working during those days which were so heavily occupied.

Grave problems did indeed figure on the agenda, which might well have been distorted by nefarious political interference. Thanks must be given to those taking part, who, under the firm control of the President, Mr. Brundage, showed once more that the Olympic ideal allows sport to have the last word, and to be placed above the tensions and conflicts which elsewhere disrupt international exchanges.

Africa, however, which could not welcome the International Olympic Committee, was widely represented at Baden-Baden, as much by its National Olympic Committees as by the observers of the young nations on the way to being received into the Olympic family. And those among them who spoke, did so with a courtesy and wisdom worthy of the highest praise. With regard to the

delegates from other continents and other nations, these had obtained their entry visas into Germany without difficulty. A simple expression is enough : Olympic spirit.

This is surely the moment to hail a victory and to learn a lesson from it. When ideals are at a low ebb then some people clamour for a revision of the Olympic principles, and criticize their present values. These same ideals, principles and stability are those which open frontiers and allow opponents, even enemies, to sit side by side, and make of sport the herald of peace and brotherhood.

To the members of the International Olympic Committee for Germany, Messrs. Karl Ritter von Halt and Willi Daume, to the German Olympic Committee, to the city of Baden-Baden and to its authorities, to the workers in the Organization Bureau and to all those who, from far and wide, worked for the success of the 60th Meeting, our most grateful thanks are due.





