

PRESS COMMENTS

MUST THE MEDITERRANEAN GAMES BE ABANDONED ?

Under this heading, Gaston Meyer, the most eminent journalist in the world of sport, and chief editor of the *Equipe* in Paris, gave a brief account of the Mediterranean Games at which he was present. 'What is the use of these Games ? They are like no other kind.' He goes on to say 'In the Regional Games, sportsmen of much the same type generally find themselves in competition one with another. Such is the case in the Nordic Games and in the South American Games. The Mediterranean separates two worlds. One is Christian and Greco-Latin and the other Mohammedan and Arab. All the more reason one would say for sport to fulfil its duty of bringing races together. Athletes in fact always make friends on sportsgrounds, and if the public could observe their behaviour more closely, it might realize the uselessness of its own hostile attitude. But rulers of certain countries and the press under their control continue to stir up these childish passions. One cannot deny that the atmosphere of the Mediter-

ranean Games is bad. In this case, we may well wonder whether it is worth pursuing a line of action which can lead to nothing but an increase in animosity. From another point of view, it is inadmissible for any country — or group of countries — to claim rights over any other country, according to the rules of sport. To disregard the principles of sport is to exclude oneself from the community. The desire to exclude those who themselves obey the Rules is only too easy.

'All these factors combine to condemn the Mediterranean Games such as they are today. Must we persevere in spite of everything ? The political events of the next two years will probably decide this question.'

(The Mediterranean Games of 1967 will, in principle, be taking place in Tunis.)

EDITOR'S NOTE

We must at least admit that the Games which took place in Naples were impeccably organized by those in charge: the C. O. N. I. (Italian Olympic National Committee).