

Editorial

The new presentation of the bulletin will perhaps surprise a number of our readers. We must therefore reassure them from the start. If the form has undergone a few changes, the contents will remain the same for the new editor was schooled by the man who gave life to this publication for eighteen years. No. 88 of the bulletin said « au revoir » to chancellor Otto Mayer ; this number is dedicated to him, telling as it does of the Games to which he devoted so much work.

Months have passed and the year has changed since that evening of 24 October 1964 when the olympic flag was lowered from the tall flagpole of the Tokyo National Stadium. The commentaries have been written, the praises have been sung, the moments of emotion have been lived. Other things are now in the news, but the memory remains as imperishable as the Games were a complete success.

During the four years from one olympic contest to the next the Olympic Movement lives by the proclamation of its principles and the devotion of its adepts, and survives the attacks on these same principles and these same adepts. Once every four years, for fifteen days, it produces the proof that it is in the right ; that being a peaceful movement, it is a source of joy ; that encouraging effort, it gives rise to outstanding performance ; and that, championing amateur sport, it brings about voluntary performance.

The Olympic Games also create the image of what a truly democratic society would be like, where only the best was triumphant, where each was judged on his merits. Thus favourites who were given so many chances that they were in danger of infringing the rule of the game were seen to fall, while unknown and unadvertised athletes mounted the victory stand. For there are qualities that no training however long, no promise and no « briefing » can inspire in the athlete when it comes to it; these are intelligence, courage and control. Hence the symbolic nakedness of the Ancient Greeks of Olympia ; today, as then, the competitor is reduced to his bare personality once he is on the track. The crowds felt it when, half an hour after the arrival of Abebe Bikila, they cheered as they would a winner the Peruvian, Fornes, whose stamina got the better of the tragic exhaustion at the end of the marathon and whose tremendous will carried him stumbling towards a goal in which he alone still saw victory.

Acclaim was international for so many individual performances. Thanks to the progress made in telecommunications, the world lived by Tokyo time. Above all passions the passion for the game-cum-combat, which is the common denominator of all peoples and civilizations, beat a single pulse.

And because this game, because The Games have their own rules, principles and symbols, and because they bring together and unite those who are separated by frontiers, traditions and ideas, the world has once again been given grounds for hope.

Editor.