

## Open forum

*To our November "Open forum" we will be welcoming two speakers. The first, Mr. Erik von Frenckell, is well known in olympic and sporting circles since, as member of the I.O.C. for Finland since 1948 (in company with Mr. J. W. Rangell, elected in 1938). and besides his thousand and one activities as a founder and director of clubs and associations, he was president of the Organizing Committee of the Games of the XVth Olympiad in Helsinki. The prestige which has remained attached to the 1952 Games and the credit rightly given to Mr. von Frenckell are common knowledge. It is, then, an expert who is to describe a project for the reorganization of the olympic contests.*

*The floor will next be given to Mr. Angel Vassev, a member of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee, who published in the July Bulletin of that committee a very interesting and generous suggestion. It seems to us worthy of the attention of sports administrators at the international or at least at the national level.*

## Letter to president Avery Brundage

The Olympic Sports Organisation, known as the Olympic Games, is one of the world's oldest events motivated by an idealistic aspect but with a practical meaning and of practical importance.

For about two thousand years the purpose of the Games has been the same — a noble competition of the world's youth, a competition for physical education, but also for cultural and artistic development. The Games have not, however, remained unchanged. On the contrary there has occurred much development. The program of the competitions has often changed and the right of taking part has also been radically changed many times due to principal reasons. Women have not always been allowed to take part and the men's participation has often been restricted by social, political and economic aspects.

The olympic idea and the realisation of it has been greatly developed during the last seventy-five years and especially after World War II. It has become highly accepted in all countries, also in those that have recently achieved their independence. New member-countries have joined the International Olympic Committee at an increasing rate. The number of participants from each country is nowadays restricted and so is the number of competitors in the different events.

Restrictions and reorganizations are always bound to create dissatisfaction among those who feel hurt and this dissatisfaction has always been obvious when the Games have been arranged. There has been criticism, with and without reason and a number of reformative suggestions have been expressed. This is quite natural with one hundred and eighteen N.O.C.s in the I.O.C. and twenty-six international sports associations which, however, only have a theoretical right of participating in all the Olympic Games. The question is furthermore complicated by the fact that six international sports associations have become members of the I.O.C. with-

out any guarantee of having their own events in the program of the Games.

Among the different restrictions and reorganizations of the last thirty-five years we may mention that in 1924 the games were split in two parts, the winter and the summer Games. In 1928, the male monopoly came to an end and women were allowed to enter the olympic tracks.

Twenty-one of the accepted twenty-six events belong to the Summer Games and five to the Winter Games. In accordance with certain decisions made by the I.O.C. the number of *events* in the Summer Games has been reduced to eighteen, while three events with a theoretical right of participating have been eliminated. The protests of the eliminated organizations are well motivated and it is also easy to understand the protests and membership applications from the other six organizations. Furthermore there are sports that remain unaccepted though they are practised by tens and maybe hundred thousands young people (volleyball).

Within the I.O.C. there has therefore arisen an idea, which has also been expressed, that the possibilities of revising the program of the Olympic Games should be investigated. The main idea has been that some indoor sports which are mainly practised during the winter season could be naturally connected with the Winter Games. These games have not shown the same tendency of a heavy organization as the Summer Games. The rules of the International Olympic Committee specify that the Games must always be arranged by a city and one can therefore suppose that any modern city wishing to arrange Olympic Winter Games owns or is willing to build the necessary halls for the indoor events.

Among those events that could be transferred to the Winter Games are : weightlifting, handball, volleyball, basketball, judo, wrestling, boxing, gymnastics, fencing.

It would therefore seem natural and practical that an I.O.C. congress officially debates the future organization of the Games and thoroughly examines which events could be transferred to the Winter Games. The question of new events should also be investigated.

With reference to the above I respectfully suggest that at the congress in Madrid in 1965 the I.O.C. should discuss and possibly make decisions regarding a reorganisation of the Olympic Games. A committee of three or five persons should be nominated and given the task to hear representatives for those organisations that could and would be willing to take part in the Games.

August 1965.

*Erik von Frenckell*  
*member of I.O.C.*

*As a result of Mr. von Frenckell's proposal, a sub-committee of three members was asked by the I.O.C. Session in Madrid to investigate the matter and to report at the next meeting. See minutes elsewhere in this "Bulletin".* Ed.