

MEETING WITH WE NEW MEMBERS

At its session in Madrid in October 1965, the International Olympic Committee elected five new members, thus bringing to seventy-two the number of its ambassadors to fifty-five countries. These men are not only ambassadors. They are leaders also with heavy responsibilities, the problems with which they are faced growing in proportion with the extraordinary development of the Olympic Movement.

One knows that the members of the I.O.C. are its representatives in their countries and not delegates of their country to the Committee. One also knows that the I.O.C. is a self-recruiting body and that it owes its strength to this system initiated by Pierre de Coubertin. For it is the man and not the country he comes from that counts. The important thing is the character of the individual and not the land of his birth. Countries new to the Olympic Movement do not always understand the necessity for this method of organization and they have insisted that they should name a "representative" on the Committee. Examples of international organizations based on national representations show that political considerations soon prevail with detriment to the organization's activities.

Great care is exercised in choosing members with experience in amateur sport, men of strong character, international understanding and independent spirit. They are elected for life. However a member may resign, or cease to be a member if he has failed to attend meetings for four years or if, by reason of circumstances, he is no longer in a position properly to carry out his duties as a member.

Two hundred and seventy-one men from over sixty countries have been members of the International Olympic Committee since it was founded in 1894. A few years ago it was decided that there should be only one member in any country, except in the largest where there may be two.

Members with long and active service in the Committee who wish to resign, may be elected to honorary membership. This was precisely the case in Madrid with Professor Joseph G. A. Gruss (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. Bo Ekelund (Sweden), whose successors Messrs. Kroutil and Ericsson we are now introducing to our readers, together with three other new members.

Mr. Amadou Barry was born at Saint Louis in Senegal in November 1904. His education fitted him for important administrative posts in his own country, both before and after independence. Today, although retired, Mr. Barry is still a member of the Dakar Municipal Council and a member of Parliament; he was director of the Senegal Railways and mayor of the island of Gorea, which now lies smiling

off Dakar forgetting that in past centuries it witnessed all the horror of the Slave Trade ships. Not content to serve the government of his country, Mr. Barry was unsparing in his efforts to develop Senegalese sport. He played and organized football in its early days in Senegal, soon extending his interest to other fields, which thus benefited from his qualities as an organizer, his



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WHICH IS YOUR DEFINITION OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT?

Mr. Amadou Barry:

The Olympic Movement is based on the generous principle of "giving". In my opinion, its definition in a few words would be as follows: "Man's striving through sport towards universal peace".

Mr. Gunnar Ericsson:

Sport is one of the most intelligent and practical weapons for friendship between nations and peace in the world. The Olympic Movement is one of the best tools of sport.

Mr. Frantisek Kroutil, who dislikes definitions which he finds restrictive:

I would define the Olympic Movement as "a world association of amateur athletes inspired by the ancient ideal of the physical and moral beauty of man, and seeking to adapt this ideal to the present development of mankind by endeavouring to elevate and ennoble contests between athletes of different nations without distinction as to race, creed or political beliefs, championing fair play, justice and equality, chivalrous rivalry, and the glorious and romantic atmosphere of the Olympic Games so as to create the most attractive model for the youth of all continents, showing them, through sport, how to acquire high moral and physical qualities and to learn to value and understand one another, for the good of civilization, progress and the maintenance of peace among nations".

Vice-admiral Lappas:

It is the strongest international social manifestation of our times, which has as its objective the creation of good citizens, having the character and personality of the good and worthy man whom, from antiquity until our own days, every nation needs. To attain this purpose the means of noble friendly rivalry is utilised, in accordance with the competitive regulations based on the absolute amateur spirit and on the peaceful coexistence and participation of the youth of all nations.

In my opinion the Olympic Movement does not aim at the achievement of great results at the cost of any sacrifice, but at the endeavour for improvement in the performance of each individual. It is precisely in this direction that the great benefits are to be found.

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serene yet firm authority. Everyone in Africa knows the active part he played in the preparations for and actual running of the Friendship Games whose success in 1963 was the go-ahead signal for the African Games. Honorary president of the Gorean Sports Union, president of the Sports Commission of the Commune of Dakar, Commander of the French Sporting Order and officer of the Legion of Honour,

Mr. Amadou Barry is president of the Senegalese Olympic Committee.

Mr. Gunnar Ericsson was born in Sweden in 1919. Matriculated in 1938, he graduated and served as an officer on active list from 1941 to 1943. He studied economics and took his degree in 1946. Today he is an industrialist and chairman and executive member of several Swedish and European important industrial and export associations. He his knight of the Order of Vasa, First Class. The regular practice of several



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Mr. Mohamed Mzali:

The Olympic Movement is essentially an Act of Faith and an Action. An act of faith in man, in his glorious destiny, his power of continually surpassing himself, of mastering the forces of nature in him and around him. It is also a persevering, generous and disinterested action with a view to rendering concrete the cultural, moral and aesthetic values of all genuine civilizations.

The Games are thus above all a great meeting of the youth of the whole world, without any discrimination, for the purpose of getting to know each other better and assuming more completely their role of men in the world of tomorrow.

IN YOUR OPINION, HOW CAN THE PRINCIPLES PROMOTED BY THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT FIT IN OUR MODERN LIFE?

Mr. Amadou Barry:

The principles the Olympic Movement stands for tend towards the creation of a spirit of international fraternity. To achieve this aim, taking into account the contingencies of modern life, I think that:

a) Governments should become more and more aware of the philosophy of the Olympic Movement as a factor towards peace. No man of goodwill sufficiently informed of the Olympic ideal can help but subscribe to it;

b) More room should be made for sport in school time-tables and at the same time Regional Games and games of sporting propaganda should be encouraged.

Mr. Gunnar Ericsson:

Most principles of the Olympic Movement really fit in our modern life because they are timeless. However, those principles have to be advertised in the same way as we advertise goods, especially in the years between the Olympic games. I should welcome a strong and effective public relation for our organization.

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sports, including skiing, skating, tennis and golf, has enabled him to prove the validity of Pierre de Coubertin's statement that sport "develops qualities such as self-control, self-assurance and determination in an individual thus benefiting all his other activities". Mr. Ericsson has become an ardent spokesman throughout Sweden for the fact that sport in management gives better decisions.

A keen footballer too, Mr. Ericsson has been a member of the Board of the Ostergötland's Soccer Association since 1957, and has been chairman of this same Board since 1960. He is also a member of the Board of the Swedish Soccer Association and the Swedish Olympic Committee.

Mr. Frantisek Kroutil was born in Czechoslovakia in 1907. A Master of Law, he studied at Bucovice, his birthplace, as well as in Dijon, Vienna and Brno, at the same time being a keen swimmer, cyclist, canoeist, skier and climber. As an alpinist, he has an impressive number of ascents to his credit, including several "firsts" in the Tatra mountains and the Alps. He has moreover been one of the pro-



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Mr. Frantisek Kroutil:

To become an integral part of modern life, the principles the Olympic Movement stands for must be extended:

- to athletic competitions, races and championships other than the Olympic Games by persuading the international federations of the most varied sports to incorporate them in their statutes and to defend them everywhere and by all means at their disposal;
- to young sportsmen in all countries by encouraging them to act in the spirit of the Olympic principles not only in the stadium but in all fields of life by championing fair play, equality without discrimination, and fraternal, peaceful relations throughout the world.

Vice-admiral Lappas:

I am convinced that all who know well the objectives of the Olympic Movement are persuaded that not only are its principles adaptable to contemporary life, but must be applied since, however much mankind progresses in the technical field, it will ever need individuals with idealistic mentality, intellectually, bodily and spiritually cultivated, suitably disciplined to the aims of mankind as a whole. Youth must learn to live with frugality and not look to material gains. They must make their choice as to which profession or trade they will pursue and endeavour to excel in it. In this endeavour the practical application of the Olympic principles will be of great assistance.

Mr. Mohamed Mzali:

I do not think there is any incompatibility between the principles of Olympism and modern life. Olympism is incarnated by men, and modern life is the reflection of modern man as he evolves, recreates himself, or revalues his life in the light of progress in knowledge and science. To be sincere and objectively valid our conceptions and our ideas are always marked with a certain coefficient of relativity. As August Comte said, the only absolute principle is that everything is relative. The "apostles" of the Olympic Movement would be left behind, out of step with modern life if they were not susceptible to the dynamics of progress, if they were not open to modern life, by being modern themselves, that is to say by

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moters of mountain climbing in Czechoslovakia and is the author of a great many articles and reports on this thrilling sport. Mr. Kroutil is not only a gifted alpinist, he is also a distinguished linguist who, in addition to his native tongue, speaks French, English, Russian, German and Italian with great ease. Holding several active and honorary posts in the world of sport, Mr. Kroutil was in 1957 appointed

secretary general of the Czechoslovakian Olympic Committee, of which he had been a member since 1950. The practical problems of the athlete and of sport are especially familiar to him as he was the manager of Czechoslovakia's delegations to the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Rome and Tokyo as well as to the Winter Olympics at Cortina d'Ampezzo and Innsbruck.

Vice-admiral Pyrros Lappas was born in Athens in 1900. On graduating out of the Naval Cadets School in 1920, he immediately joined the navy from which he resigned only in 1958 with the rank of vice-admiral, having been awarded twenty-seven Greek and foreign decorations (including an honorary C.B.E.). This man of the sea — he still has the look of one used to scanning distant horizons — naturally devoted

himself to the development and practice of aquatic sports. While he was a cadet, he regularly took part in swimming races, water-polo matches and rowing events, while also going in for cycling and football. As sea-admiral, he finished second in the 100 metres free style swimming in the veteran's category. He very soon played an active part in the administration of sport, organizing races, procuring facilities,



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continually renewing themselves, enriching themselves, bringing themselves ceaselessly up to date. Obviously a certain perspective is necessary not to confuse modernism with mere fashion or whim, to distinguish the essential from the contingent.

ALSO IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH ARE THE MAIN PROBLEMS FACING THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT AND WHICH SOLUTIONS DO YOU PROPOSE?

Mr. Amadou Barry:

In my opinion, they are the problems of the independence of National Olympic Committees and pseudo-amateurism.

A good number of N.O.C.'s can operate only as a result of the subsidies of their respective governments; this is what explains (without justifying) the more or less veiled interference of the public powers. I think that the creation of a solidarity fund at I.O.C. level would help to solve this problem.

As for amateurism, which is the golden rule of the Olympic Movement, we must continue to defend it with all our might. Its definition must be brought more up to date, although above all we must appeal to the loyalty and the fair play of those concerned, in the pure spirit of Pierre de Coubertin.

Mr. Gunnar Ericsson:

The main problem is the question of amateurism. We in the organization have to look upon those things in a more realistic way.

Mr. Frantisek Kroutil:

One of the main problems is how to reconcile the ever increasing development of the Olympic community on the one hand and the organizational possibilities of the Olympic Games on the other. All nations and all races are entitled — in the opinion of Pierre de Coubertin — to take part in the Games. Similarly new sports demand to be included in the programme. In order to solve this problem effectively, in my opinion we should first of all decide what is essential and emanates directly from the

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creating centres and clubs for both naval and civilian use. He was responsible for the creation of the rowing training centre on the island of Poros and, with the assistance of the Royal Hellenic Navy, the only covered swimming pool in Greece. In 1926 he became a member, then president of the Navy's Sports and Athletic Union; in 1947, vice-president, then in 1951 president of the Hellenic Rowing Association;

in 1953, a member of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, of which he has been honorary secretary general since 1961. The same year vice-admiral Lappas was elected honorary secretary of the Board of Trustees of the International Olympic Academy, to the promotion of which he devotes his unceasing efforts, and the remarkable activities of which we shall, thanks to him, have an opportunity of describing in our next "Bulletin".

Mr. Mohamed Mzali was born at Monastir, in Tunisia, in 1925. He attended secondary school in his own country, then went to the Faculty of letters in Paris. A Master of philosophy, he is very keen on education and sport, which in his view are one and the same thing. His career, moreover, rests and is based on this Coubertinian diptych. After having played football, basketball, volleyball and taken an active

“the mind”. Appointed chef de cabinet at the National Education in 1956, he was made director of Youth and Sport in 1959. For six years he worked unceasingly, with no thought for his health, to give sport the place he knows it should occupy in the education of a young nation. Having laid down the principles and placed the infrastructure in position, he left it to others to carry on the movement he had started



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fundamental principles in the rules drawn up by Pierre de Coubertin for the organization of the Games. Anything that is not essential could, if necessary, be modified and adapted to present circumstances.

Vice-admiral Lapps:

a) The principles of the Olympic Movement are not sufficiently known. Everyone gives an interpretation according to his own views. So that there should be a single outlook regarding the principles and objectives of the Olympic Movement, a concentrated endeavour should be made to educate all individuals who are concerned with the Olympic Movement in whatsoever capacity. Thus it will be possible to disseminate these principles also to all those who are not immediately concerned with the Olympic Movement. The International Olympic Academy is making real efforts in this direction.

b) The application of the principles of the true Amateur spirit. I would propose that all entrants for the Olympic Games are required to undergo certain tests before participation, whereby they might prove that they have certain qualifications which will assure them the possibility of earning their livelihood.

Mr. Mohamed Mzali:

The main problem is for our organization to adapt itself to the evolution of men and circumstances, especially after the second world war: with the liberation of hundreds of millions of men of different races, creeds, colours..., to go beyond the contradictions caused by the shattering of certain values and especially by the advent of the developing countries which rightly aspire to make up for lost time and whose hopes must not be disappointed. These developing countries could be a source of enrichment for the Olympic Movement since they believe in the virtues of physical and sports education, in the effectiveness of the Olympic ideal as an educational factor for youth.

Since a respect for its principles is the only guarantee of the conduct and strength of the Olympic Movement, it is worthwhile considering the ways likely to ensure greater efficiency by adhering more nearly, by sticking more closely to the admittedly changing and complex reality of the world of sport. If sport, for example, is not to be the handmaid of politics, of petty politics, is it not desirable to try to make politics serve the interests of the Olympic Movement, that is to say serve the men of tomorrow, peace and universal brotherhood?

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part in athletics at school, Mr. Mzali founded “The Monastirian Student” Association in 1949 devoted to theatrical, literary and sporting activities, and at the same time became professor of letters and member of the Monastirian Sports Union. In 1955 he published an essay on democracy and founded a cultural review which for the last eleven years has each month devoted its hundred or so pages to

and accepted new responsibilities in the field of education and promotion, those of managing the Tunisian Broadcasting Company and creating the Tunisian Television Company. Since 1963 Mr. Mzali has been president of the Tunisian Olympic Committee and vice-president of the International Committee of the Mediterranean Games. He is responsible for the introduction of a law protecting the Olympic emblems

in Tunisia, and a Pierre de Coubertin Street in Tunis in which the Tunisian Olympic Committee has its offices.