

## ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM

This is the text of the postal vote which was accepted by an absolute majority of I.O.C. members and which will enable a multi-racial team to take part in the Mexico Games.

Having studied the report of the Commission on South Africa, the International Olympic Committee NOTES with grave concern that racially-discriminatory internal policies of the South African Government prevent the National Olympic Committee of that country from achieving fully the aims of the I.O.C. under Fundamental Principle I of the Olympic Code. It is however ENCOURAGED that positive efforts by the S.A.N.O.C. have resulted in a firm undertaking to implement the proposals announced at the I.O.C. Session at Tehran in May 1967 whereby a multi-racial team will be selected on merit. It now resolves that the S.A.N.O.C. may enter a team which conforms with Fundamental Principle I in the Olympic Games in 1968 in Mexico and on the understanding that it continues vigourously its efforts to have all forms of racial discrimination in amateur sport removed and the I.O.C. will reconsider the question by the end of 1970.

Mr. Avery Brundage made many statements on this subject, the most important of which are as follows :-

- Is it not true that the I.O.C. has been the first organisation in the world to actually do something for non-white Africans ?
- Thanks to the power of the Olympic Movement? this is a peak success and the I.O.C. ought to be praised, not blamed.
- Indeed, there will be no meetings between whites and non-whites within South Africa, but the selection will be carried out by a multi-racial Committee which will make all decisions before and after the team's departure.

The Olympic Movement is based upon non-discrimination whatsoever, whether political, religious or racial; yet a National Olympic Committee can hardly defy the law in its country. However, a multi-racial team, selected by a multi-racial Committee, will be sent to Mexico by the National Olympic Committee and will travel as one body.

Moreover, the Government will not interfere in the united team's business outside South Africa.

Here is the text the press was given by Mr. Brundage on February 25th :-

South Africa has not been invited to the Games of the XIXth Olympiad in Mexico. Despite the unofficial and misleading point scores that are published the Olympic Games are between individuals and not between nations. It is a multiracial team of individuals selected by a multiracial committee with all members on an equal basis that has been invited. There has been a lot of talk about underprivileged Non-Whites in South Africa; now, for the first time something has been done for them and they have been given an opportunity to appear in the Olympic Games on the same basis as anyone else. Who would have thought it possible a few years ago ? It is a great step forward that could only be accomplished by the International Olympic Committee.

South African Non-Whites have long sought this opportunity and it is unfortunate that some who pretend to be their friends would deprive them of it. They are not responsible for the policies of their government and to keep them out would only penalize them although they are quite innocent.

There was the same flurry in 1936 about facism when the Games were held in Berlin although the German government had nothing to do with them since they are completely under international control, but after mature reflection everyone came and proved Hitler's racial theories wrong in his very presence.

Again in 1952 when the communists National Olympic Committees were recognized by the International Olympic Committee there was an explosion. No one wanted to play together with them because it was said they had no understanding of the basic principles of amateur sport for sports sake although they had promised to follow Olympic regulations.

It has been amply proven that if there is one place where an athlete, no matter what race, color, religion, or political affiliation, can display his talents and his ability on an equal basis, it is the Olympic Games. Those who would abstain forget the fundamental principles of non discrimination of the Olympic Movement. They would not only deprive their own athletes of a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity but also would beat the Mexican Organizing Committee in a country outstandingly free from racial prejudice in a very unfriendly manner.

And now, some opinions from among the international press :

Daily Telegraph (George Gretton)

. . . . I detest apartheid as strongly as anyone, and sympathise with the attitude of Africans to it. But if the Olympic Games are to be used as a lever to influence the policy of one Government they can equally be used against another. The Olympic principle quoted above was certainly violated in the recent Games at or around Grenoble (the capital for "amateur" are written into the original charter) and it is equally violated by political discrimination . . . .

. . . .The Olympic Committee, whatever its shortcomings, has succeeded in the last 72 years in bringing athletes of all nations together in a spirit of fair competition. If this is now to be destroyed, it will be sad for the fine African athletes, like Abebe Bikila, Keino and Mamo Wolde who will be excluded. It will be saddest of all for the indigenous South Africans who have been given their first real break.

It is to be hoped that the African Government concerned will have second thoughts, and that the Soviet Government will find some less dangerous channel for its propaganda.

Figaro (Roland Mesmeur)

So, the members of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa have decided to boycott the Mexico Olympic Games. We persist in thinking that it never was said, what the real problem was.

The admission of South Africa never implied a recognition of the "Apartheid" policy, but merely rewarded a National Committee for the efforts towards amendments of too strict laws.

As a conclusion, the African countries refused to admit the free play of democratic rules and intend now to impose their truth.

Los Angeles Herald-Examiner (Arthur Daley)

My initial reaction was that the IOC made a serious mistake in readmitting south Africa, a nation condemned throughout the world for its rigorous apartheid policies. This was an open invitation for other countries to boycott the forthcoming games, an invitation that many have already accepted. Just the other day, however, a thoughtful commentary on the New York Times editorial page questioned the wisdom of such a boycott because the Olympic fathers obtained unbelievable concessions.

For year after year the United Nations had been hammering away at the total black and white separation in South Africa without ever compelling that republic to retreat as much as one inch. This has to be far more pressure than the IOC ever could exert because the sports group has no military power, economic power or any other power. All it has is its idealism.

It proved strong enough to force South Africa closer to integrating its Olympic team than ever before. Tryouts still will be separate because the law of the land prohibits inter-racial competition. But committees of whites and blacks will appraise performances of the measurement sports to determine personnel while those requiring face-to-face confrontation, such as boxing, will be subject to extra tryouts outside of the country.

Except for that one flaw in the setup, it will be total integration. The athletes, white and black and in between, will travel together, live together, wear identical uniforms and compete together under one flag. Admittedly it isn't 100 per cent. But at least the IOC got 90 per cent and it sure is a lot more than the zero per cent that has been the production rate of the U.N.

What Non-White South Africans think (Extract from Post 18.2.68. "Post" is a Non-White newspaper in South Africa).

Speaking from his Free State office Khosi told Pongolo :

- I'm the happiest man in the country. Now, for the first time, my mates and I will be able to fight it out against the top stars from other countries.

He repeated :

- Brother , you just don't know now happy I am about this. It's like a dream come true for our chaps. I'm going to train real hard now - more than I've been doing because I'm determined I'm not going to let this country down.

The modest Khosi is South Africa's best Non-White Olympics prospect. His record times for 880 yds and the 440 yds are 1 min. 48.6 sec. and 47.5 sec. When he toured Britain in July last year he beat two of South Africa's best White middle-distance runners, Jacklin Vaughn and Eddie Warren.

POST learns that a special Olympics blazer badge with the 5-ring Olympic symbol is being designed. All members of the team will wear it.