

THE OLYMPIC CUP PRESENTED TO THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE SILENT SPORTS

Inaugurating its new headquarters at Vidy, the Secretariat of the IOC received, on Saturday, 23rd March, a delegation from the International Committee for the Silent Sports.

Mr. Gabriel Gemayel (Lebanon), a member of the IOC's Executive Board, presented the Vice President of the ICSS with the Olympic Cup, awarded for 1966 at the 1967 May Session of the IOC in Tehran, and delivered the following speech :-

"When celebrating, in 1906, the tenth anniversary of the revival of the Olympic Games, Baron de Coubertin instituted the Olympic Cup, to be awarded to an institution or association with a general reputation for merit and integrity, which has been active and efficient in the service of amateur sport and has contributed substantially to the development of the Olympic Movement.

For sixty years, many associations have, one after the other, achieved that highest international recompense to which they could aspire, an award to which essential moral values are attached. I am particularly glad to bestow this cup upon the International Committee for the Silent Sports and Baron de Coubertin would be happy to see this trophy awarded to men who, for years, have allowed less favoured fellow-men to attain equality through sport..

Your association's renown, the task you have fulfilled, the energy, kindness and devotion, Gentlemen, designated you quite naturally for the trophy which you were awarded for 1966 by the International Olympic Committee.

My colleagues and I are happy to see this trophy in so deserving hands. We congratulate you on the task accomplished, in spite of all the difficulties you must have encountered. We know how laborious your path may have been at times. This award, we hope, will be all the more precious to you.

You have now cleared the path, In all countries, committees of your type allow young men and women, disfavoured by fate, to get to know the joys of sport and also to learn, through sport, to tackle life better.

The International Olympic Committee, which was founded on the principle of non-discrimination, made a point of inscribing the International Committee for the Silent Sports among its most worthy recipients."

Mr. Lonnoy (Belgium) was the interpreter for Mr. Gemayel as well as for Mr. Antoine Dresse, the Secretary General and founder of the association, who replied to the above speech as follows, addressing the Secretary General of the IOC.

"Sir,

Our president, Mr. Pierre Bernhard, was unable to join us here because of an illness, and, in my capacity of dean, I should like to make myself the spokesman of the Executive Commission of the International Committee for the Silent Sports and thank you for the kind reception reserved for us in your new residence, where Pierre de Coubertin will for ever leave his mark.

This is the third meeting of our Executive Commission in Lausanne. The first was held in 1959 at the end of the IVth International Winter Games at Montana. On that occasion, the city of Lausanne honoured us with an official reception.

Three years later, on 16th June 1962, we met here again, and had the pleasure of presenting the Chancellor, Mr. Otto Mayer, with an emblem, showing the official flag of the International Olympic Committee, as a token of our gratitude and deep esteem.

This emblem is now shown in your museum where the ideal of Baron de Coubertin remains ever present. In this atmosphere and among these souvenirs, we feel encouraged in our sports mission.

The International Committee for the Silent Sports is grateful for all the interest it is so kindly shown by the IOC, and it is proud and happy to be officially recognized, through the decision taken by the IOC's congress on 13th June 1965, in Paris, among the international organizations " with Olympic standing ".

Another event has greatly honoured us as an intangible token of the IOC's friendship for the International Committee for the Silent Sports. This is the decision, taken at their 1967 May Session in Tehran, to award us the Olympic Cup for 1966. It was another symbol of the true and sincere sportsmanship which unites us.

In the name of our President, for whom I have the honour of speaking, and in the name of our colleagues present, I express to you, as well as to President Brundage and the Executive Board, the warmest gratitude of forty countries united under the aegis of the International Committee for the Silent Sports."

Among the members of the ICSS were :-

Mr. VUKOTIC (Yugoslavia) Second Vice President, Mr. DAL HGREN (Sweden), Secretary General, Mr. MARTOLY (Finland), Mr. RUBINO (Italy), Mr. JORDAN (United States) and Mr. TRAITINE (Belgium).

Mr. Pierre Bernhard (France), President, was not able to attend due to ill-health.

Mr. Johann Westerhoff, Secretary General, offered some wine in celebration of the award of the trophy.

We should like to remind our readers that the I.C.S.S. was founded over 43 years ago, on 16th August 1924, by Mr. Rubens Alcais and today groups 37 affiliated countries. The association's aim the development of physical training and sports for deaf-mutes the world over. It organizes the International Silent Games. These are held every four years? alternately every two years for the summer sports and for the winter sports.

The last summer games were held in 1965 in Washington, gathering 697 athletes (of which 108 were women), from 27 countries.