

## PRESIDENT BRUNDAGE'S JOURNEY TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

Last February, President BRUNDAGE paid a visit to the Iberic Peninsular. On the 20th he was in Madrid where he awarded the Olympic Diploma of Merit to Don José Antonio ELOLA. This ceremony took place at the National Institute of Physical Education in the presence of Mr. Juan Antonio SAMARANCH, President of the Spanish Olympic Committee and of other personalities from political and sports spheres. On this occasion Mr. J.A. SAMARANCH delivered a speech in the honour of President BRUNDAGE of which we should like to give the main points:

After having said how difficult it was to give a true picture of such complete and complex a personality as our President's Mr. J.A. SAMARANCH concentrated on stressing the great energy and high ideals as well as the total altruism which President BRUNDAGE devoted to the cause of the Olympic Movement.

The harsh criticism which has been addressed to President BRUNDAGE cannot but strengthen of orators admiration for the President whose determination in defending amateurism according to the Olympic spirit and the faithfulness to the ideas of the founder of the Modern Games, Baron Pierre DE COUBERTIN have served the cause of sport and enhanced human ideals so well. Then he summed up the career and achievements of this man and his multiple talents : athlete of international calibre, creative architect, prosperous business man and distinguished art expert.

In his reply President BRUNDAGE developed the following themes:

"The Olympic Movement is the greatest social force in the world. This achievement is merely due to high ideals of Olympism since it desposes neither army, police nor money. It is of vital importance that the Olympic Movement be preserved from the detrimental influence of money and of political intrigues. However, in spite of a few unfortunate incidents the Olympic Winter Games of Grenoble have been a success and we expect the same for Mexico next October".

A few days later in Lisbon President BRUNDAGE was awarded the High Order of Official of Public Education of Portugal. It was Professor CALVAO TELES, Minister of National Education who had the honour of presenting this award to the President, deputising for his father, President of the Portugese Olympic Committee, who was absent for reasons of ill-health.

Professor GALVAO TELES said in his speech:

"Among the personalities, who in the course of the past 50 years have served the Olympic Movement, it seems to us very relevant to stress that of President BRUNDAGE who, following a line of action worthy of his predecessors, for the past 15 years has been shaping the future of the Olympic Movement with great strength of character and unshakeable faith."

General Correia LEAL then took the floor and developed one of our President's favourite themes : "Portugal will send a team composed exclusively of amateurs to the Olympic Games in Mexico. The number of attending athletes will unfortunately not be as great as we had previously hoped, due to the drastic events of March in 1961 which was a crucial year for the Portugese colonial Empire particularly for the youth of the provinces of Guinea, Angola Mozambique and Timor".

President BRUNDAGE replied that he was certain that the principle of integral amateurism would continue to prevail in all Olympic events. At the end of the ceremony he gave a press conference which he concluded with the following statement".

"Genuine Olympism is what I have seen everywhere here in Portugal."

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