

THE AID COMMITTEE : PRELIMINARY WORK

The famous Spanish journalist, Andres MERCE VARELA, well known in Olympic circles, Secretary General of the World Water Ski Union and one of the right-hand men of Mr. Juan Antonio SAMARANCH, member of the International Olympic Committee for Spain and President of the Spanish Olympic Committee, has been kind enough to send us the following article on the meeting of the Aid Committee held in Madrid in December:

At the 67th Session of the International Olympic Committee, held in Mexico, five new committees were created. They were presided over by General José de CLARK, Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee, assisted by members Constantin ANDRIANOV (U.S.S.R.) and Syed WAJID ALI (Pakistan). The purpose of these committees is to establish and develop relations between the International Olympic Committee, the National Olympic Committees and the International Sports Federations.

The five new committees are as follows:

1. Aid Committee, presided over by Mr. Juan Antonio SAMARANCH: it will study the means of helping and assisting the new National Olympic Committees
2. Eligibility Committee, presided over by Mr. Hugh WEIR
3. Committee for Legislation, Discrimination and Relations between the National Olympic Committees and their governments, presided over by Mr. Eric' VON FRENCKELL
4. Committee for the Olympic Programme, Games Officials and the choice of cities to stage the Games, whose President is Mr. Arpad CSANADI
5. Committee for Relations between the International Olympic Committee, the National Olympic Committees and the International Federations, which is presided over by Mr. Giulio ONESTI.

Each of these committees consists of six International Olympic Committee members and six National Olympic Committee members.

At the end of the constituent assembly in Mexico, the Aid Committee convened a select committee in Madrid, formed of the President, Mr. Juan Antonio SAMARANCH, the Count de BEAUMONT, and Colonel Raoul MOLLET. However, owing to the great interest of the questions on the agenda and the importance of the solutions to be found several members of the Aid Committee made the trip to Madrid to attend this meeting. Thus, for example, the President of the Committee for Direction and Control (CDC), General CLARK, flew over from Mexico; the treasurer of the International Olympic Committee, Marc HODLER, came from Switzerland; Mr. Reginald ALEXANDER from Kenya and Prince Ahmad AL-HAMED from Kuwait. This cooperation with the select committee resulted in the accomplishment of extremely useful work in a spirit of cordial understanding.

The work was based on the reports submitted by the Count de BEAUMONT, Mr. MOLLET, General CLARK and Mr. SAMARANCH, who had studied the aims of the Aid Committee beforehand. At this first meeting, several themes and principles were unanimously agreed upon.

* The Aid Committee not being responsible for distributing, in any form whatsoever, gifts in kind or specie to the National Olympic Committees, it shall in no way be required to deal with the economic means of financing this aid.

* The International Olympic Committee office at Vidy, should be made a centre coordinating all work, placed at the disposal of the National Olympic Committees and equipped with the necessary documentation, up-to-date files, and a translation service..., so as to be in a position to answer all questions submitted to it. This office should be given sufficient means to do its job properly, the most reliable sources of information, the technical assistance of the International Federations and the qualified staff required to carry out this coordination. This technical assistance service must avoid any paternalism, the National Olympic Committees having to apply to the International Olympic Committee each time they consider it necessary while at the same time maintaining their independence.

* This scheme of aid for the National Olympic Committees must be essentially technical in character and inversely proportional to the economic power and possibilities for development of each National Olympic Committee. It must be technical, didactic and adapted to the needs of each. The main features of this aid are instruction sports exchanges, advice on sports equipment, translation of regulations into various languages at a very low price, technical guidance and the possibility of providing the National Olympic Committees with trainers prepared to go to their country.

These various points are the object of immediate attention.

Among the ideas voiced at the first meeting: an "International Olympic Function" likely to be financed by rich patrons; the pairing of towns with an Olympic tradition; the possibilities and need of aid for sport . . .

The work to be carried out within the framework of the programme entitled "Olympic Solidarity", due to start in 1969, was judged of vital importance.

Taking into account the proposals of the twelve members of the Aid Committee, the Select Committee of the Aid Committee will meet, in February, to draw up the final draft, which it will present to the Executive committee of the International Olympic Committee. At its meeting in Lausanne on the 22nd March, the latter will have an opportunity of approving it before it is submitted to the meeting of the International Olympic Committee in Warsaw . . .

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