

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

GERMANY

* *Sport will not become a "state institution".*
"At no price, even for all the medals in the world, are we prepared to restrict the freedom and independence of the sports associations and federations", stated Mr. Ernst BENDA, Minister of the Interior and Mr. Willi DAUME, President of the National Olympic committee at a press conference given by the Bundestag committee responsible for sport.

* *Festival of German sport at Frankfurt am Main*
On January 30th last, Herbert VON KARAJAN, himself an ardent advocate of sport, at which he excels, conducted the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Among the most attentive athletes let us mention the young swimmers Uta FROMMATER and Haike HUSTEDE (Bronze medal winners at Mexico in the 4 x 100 m medley relay), the rider Hans-Günther WINKLER, Olympic individual steeplechase champion in 1956, and in the team events in 1956, 1960 and 1964, and 5th in the Olympic steeplechase event in Mexico, Willi HOLDORF, Olympic decathlon champion for 1964 and Hans-Joachim WALDE, 3rd in the same event and second in 1968.

BELGIUM

* The linguistic quarrels dividing Flemings and Walloons nearly led to a split in Belgian sport. Expressing the unanimous vote of its forty-eight federations, the Belgian Olympic Committee at an extraordinary general meeting held on January 25th, 1969, restated the three principles preserving the unity of Belgian sport :

- The structures of the federations and the Belgian Olympic Committee are and remain unified;
- Any internal adaptations made necessary by the new situation are the exclusive responsibility of the federations and the Belgian Olympic Committee;
- Olympic preparation and participation come under the exclusive competence and responsibility of the Olympic Committee.

FRANCE

- * The French Olympic Committee will be holding its General Meeting on April 18th next. The study of its new statutes continues. A working group is at present defining the doctrine that the French Olympic Committee intends to apply in the future.
- * Mr. Armand MASSARD, doyen and former Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee, who has had to modify his secretariat, wishes to apologise to all his colleagues who have not yet received his thanks in reply to their New Year wishes, which particularly touched him.

ITALY

- * The name of Vittorio POZZO is inseparable from the glorious history of Italian football. This inspired and much respected manager of the victorious Italian *squadra azura* at the Olympic tournament in 1936 has just died at the age of 83.

POLAND

- * *The Polish Olympic Committee's plans.* Sports schools are to be set up in each province. *Spartakiades*, which will be held every four years and will be reserved for those who have left school but are still under 19 and championships for schoolchildren held every other year will help selectors. In order to decentralize the preparation of future Olympic teams, 200 training centres will be set up with facilities for nearly 2000 athletes.