

The President of the Organizing Committee  
Mr. WILLI DAUME talks about the Munich Games

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" . . . The arrangement of the Games can be likened to a piece of international music: the orchestration is variable and has always to be adapted to the venue . . . The Olympic Games are never the same. We have had Games with a decidedly Finnish, Australian, Roman, Japanese and Mexican flavour . . . "

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" . . . Consider for a moment the geographical situation of Munich. This town close to high mountains is almost half-way between the far north of Europe and Sicily. Munich is unmistakably European but at the same time has a very special local character about it which can very well give the European Games that desirable touch of local colour which added so much charm to the Mexico Games and made them unforgettable . . . "

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" . . . I agree that men are fascinated by records; but in the final analysis they are merely the 'record' of sporting feats and not sport itself. We should not forget that in Ancient times, the Olympic Games were held for over a thousand years without the idea of records ever being mentioned . . . "

" ... The equality of rights enjoyed by all peoples within the Olympic movement and the fact that they are aware of this equality are much more important factors than all the records . . ."

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" ... Modern man wants to find an explanation for everything, which is not always possible. It was much easier for Homer's contemporaries when they had to interpret sensational results. When, at the famous Games held in honour of Patrocles after his death, Ulysses had beaten the favourite Ajax at running, it was decided that Minerva must have tripped Ajax up in order to allow her protégé to win ! This is at least what we read in the twenty-third canto of the Iliad. Personally I do not mind at all if some outside factor - which might be called the grace of the gods or the luck of the moment - plays its role in an Olympic victory.."

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" ... Every visitor to the Olympic Games should be ready to let himself be captivated by the atmosphere of the Games and the attractive aspects of another mentality and way of life . . . "

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Question : *Suppose a great magician were to appear before you and offer you three wishes connected with the success of the Olympic Games. What would they be ?*

" ... The banishment of all politics from the Olympic movement and the Olympic Games . . . "

. . . My second wish is related to the first - the abolition of national flags and anthems when giving out the medals . . .

. . . My last wish is that we should put a stop to this cult of counting medals and the surfeit of events. Only a master-magician could answer this wish . . . The number of medals a country wins inflames national pride to the highest degree. I know that we too are far from innocent in this respect; I sometimes even find myself counting the number of medals we have won ! However, we should do everything in our power to banish this cursed chauvinism from the Games . . . "

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" . . . I wish for favourable weather for everyone during the Olympic Games, that is to say a blue sky with a few white clouds, a sky in the colours of Bavaria, a sky that casts a serene light over the mountains on the horizon, the cathedral spires and the whole of the Oberwiesefeld with the Olympic stadium and village . . . "

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Excerpts from an interview  
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