

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

BELGIUM

- The Belgian press unanimously acclaimed the Belgian Olympic Committee's project for setting up a commission of athletes consisting of seven or eight reigning champions, who would be consulted on the problems facing them as well as concerning the general lines of the Olympic Movement.

- *"Free sports tests" for girls*

The scheme introduced last year by the women's sports section of the Belgian Olympic Committee is to be continued in 1969. Its purpose: to allow girls never having had an opportunity of practising any sport to have their first attempt at it free. They are given the possibility of seeing how they do at athletics, swimming, gymnastics, basketball, skating, fencing, tennis, hockey and even riding. Beforehand, applicants are summoned to the capital of their province for a medical examination and a number of sports aptitude tests. Candidates with satisfactory results are issued with a sports identity card insuring them against accidents. They arrange directly with members of the Sports Federations the date of their first meeting in the stadium. In 1968, out of over 4500 candidates who applied, 1519 passed their aptitude tests and medical examination in Brussels, Liege, Antwerp, Charleroi and Namur.

BULGARIA

- The General Meeting of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee on February 10th confirmed its confidence, for a further period of four years, in its President, General Vladimir STOYTCHEV, who has been a member of the International Olympic Committee since 1952.

GERMANY

- In order to be able to devote himself more fully to the heavy tasks incumbent upon him as President of the Organising Committee of the Munich Games, Mr. Willi DAUME, member of the

IOC for Germany since 1956, will be resigning on May 31st this year from his post as President of his National Olympic Committee.

The work of Mr. Willi DAUME, who has been the leading sports official in his country since December 10th, 1950, will coincide in history with the revival of German sport. His past achievements are a sure guarantee that the Munich Games will be a great success,

It should be noted that Mr. Willy WEYER, Minister of the Interior for the Province of Rhineland-Westphalia, succeeds him as President of the German Sports Federation.

IRELAND

The Irish Olympic Council is to have an Executive Body

- "The suggestion by the Honorary Secretary of the Olympic Council of Ireland, Mr. P. J. CARROLL, that an executive committee should be set up, was adopted at last night's meeting in Dublin.

Mr. CARROLL, in his report, said he would visualise an executive committee consisting of the officers and representatives of the various sporting associations with Olympic experience who would have the ability to bring about a more efficient and less haphazard way of preparing for the next Olympic Games.

He also stated: *"Our selection methods, for instance, are not the best and for a responsible council, we finished on a haphazard note in our preparation for Mexico. If we have not got Olympic material three months before the Games, we are not likely to have it at the last moment."*

The President, Lord KILLANIN, supported the suggestion, pointing out that it was unsatisfactory that the general Olympic Council had to tackle all the detailed work. He thought that the rules and constitution of the OCI need amending.

"We are one of the few completely amateur countries", said Lord Killanin *"and now, with the Olympic Games coming into all our livingrooms, this could be the turning point in the Olympic movement and we might get more mass support now",* reported Jean DIFFEY in the Irish Press of February 11th, 1969.

ISRAEL

- Mr. H. GLOVINSKY, secretary general of the Israel Olympic Committee, has sent us the following information :

"After the experience of the Olympic Games and the Asiatic Games, we have decided to create a special committee composed of members elected from the Israeli Olympic Committee and all the sports Federations and Associations of the country.

The purpose of this Committee will be above all to deal with youngsters between the ages of 10 and 14, with all the care and attention that this requires.

This should help us to select the best of them to guide them and give them special training, in order to form a nucleus of young sportsmen capable of contributing to the development of sport in Israel. The first trials will be carried out in three main events: athletics, swimming and gymnastics.

A special programme will be prepared and drawn up for the achievement of this object. As we have already said, the training of the very young will be carried out in the framework of a special programme, alongside the other activities of the sports associations, clubs or schools in Israel."

ITALY

- The town of Bolzano has decided to put in its application for the organization of the 1976 Winter Olympic Games.

- *The 323 CONI or Olympia centres throughout Italy have 46,450 active members, 32,796 in the 123 CONI centres and 13,054 in the 200 Olympia centres. 181 of these centres specialize in athletics (18,673 members registered), 13 in swimming (7,924 members), 5 in gymnastics (1,057 members). The other go in for sports as varied as canoeing, cycling, hockey, shooting, water-polo, riding etc.*

POLAND

- *For the 50th anniversary of the Polish Olympic Committee, an exhibition on the theme: "The modern Olympic Movement and Poland's Participation in this Movement" will be presented at the Museum of Physical Culture and Tourism, whose curator is Mrs. Maria BAZEZICKA. The inauguration coincides*

with the 55th Session of the International Olympic Committee which will be held in Warsaw at the beginning of June.

UNITED STATES

- *The quadrennial meeting of the United States Olympic Committee* will be convened in the Denver Hilton Hotel, Denver Colorado, from the 18th to the 20th April for the 218 member organizations of the USOC.

This is the first time in the post-war period that the meeting has not been held in Washington, D.C. Also, because of a change in the Constitution of the USOC the Quadrennial Meeting must be called within six months of the completion of the Summer Olympic Games, seven months earlier than it has been held previously.

The Executive Committee of 12 members (excluding the incumbent officers) met in Chicago, on the 10th January to nominate a slate of officers for the consideration of the Quadrennial Meeting. The following men will be placed in nomination:

President: Franklin L. ORTH, Washington, D.C. executive vice president of the National Rifle Association of America, currently the first vice president.

First vice president: Clifford H. BUCK, Denver, retired sporting goods company executive, a member of the Board of Directors and a past president of the Amateur Athletic Union of the U.S.

Second vice president: Philip O. KRUMM, Kenosha, Wisconsin, president of the U.S. International Skating Association, a member of the Board of Directors and a vice president of the international skating organization.

Secretary: Robert J. KANE, Ithaca, N.Y., athletic director at Cornell University and the incumbent.

Treasurer: Julian K. ROOSEVELT, New York City investment banker and past chairman of the U.S. Olympic Yachting Committee and a gold medalist at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki. He is the incumbent.

- Princus SOBER, member of the USOC Board of Directors, was named chairman of the technical committee of the International Amateur Athletic Federation. A long-time leader of track and field in the USA, and manager of the U.S.

Olympic Track Team in 1960, he has been a delegate from the USA to the IAAF for about eight years. He succeeds Harold M. ABRAHAMS, Great Britain, Olympic 100 meters champion in 1924.

- Hayes W. JONES, 1964 Olympic high hurdles champion, recently made a motion picture for the U.S. Information Agency "One Man", (for showing overseas) built around his activities as the first Commissioner of Recreation for the City of New York.

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