

THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee received the report of its Committee for the Winter Olympic Games, presided by Jonkheer Herman A. VAN KARNEBEEK.

The report was unanimously approved for presentation to the International Olympic Committee, and will be submitted to the plenary Session in Warsaw in June 1969, so that any decisions may be implemented prior to the allocation of the 1976 Winter Olympic Games, at the Session in Amsterdam in 1970.

The report which is of an administrative nature, has been prepared in consultation with the International Federations concerned and does not consider the question of amateurism. Amateurism in all Olympic sports is the subject of investigation by the IOC's Eligibility Commission.

We print below the recommendations of a general nature which it contains :

1. The importance of the Olympic Winter Games from the point of view of the sporting youth of the world was stressed, and in this connection it was fully realized that they count on the I.O.C. as leaders of sport, in whom the direction of the Olympic Movement is vested, to continue to organize both Summer and Winter Games (See articles 1 and 4 of our Rules). It was agreed that abolishment of the Winter Games at this stage might seriously harm the interests of both the Olympic Games themselves and the Olympic Movement. It was further agreed that more value should be attached to the Olympic ideals of the Games than to their commercial value, or to other interests which seem to prevail at the present time.

In our evaluation of the future of the Olympic Winter Games, as embodied in this report, we will not attempt to deal with the various problems with which the I.O.C. is confronted, such as for instance the question of advertising, nor with the current crucial matter of amateurism/professionalism, since these questions are being studied by other commissions appointed by the I.O.C.

2. The duration of the Winter Games should be limited to ten days plus the opening day. At Grenoble the Games were organized to take twelve days in addition to the opening day, and it is recommended that in future the Games should not be extended beyond the ten days' limit other than in very exceptional cases.
3. It was agreed that the Games should take place in one central location, with the various arenas located in or close to the city arranging the Games, so that all of the participants can be housed in one Olympic Village only. In this connection it should be remembered that the aim of the Olympic Movement is to bring together the youth of the world "in a great quadrennial sports festival" (see article 3 of our Rules). Only in very exceptional cases should it be permitted to deviate from this rule and resort to a great degree of decentralization.

The recommended centralization of the Winter Games would moreover have the effect of reducing considerably the costs of transportation, television, radio, etc.

4. Of late the arenas for the Winter Games have attained such enormous dimensions and the expenditure involved has become so great that only a few cities in the world can afford to compete for hosting the Winter Games. It was therefore agreed that these facilities should be brought back to somewhat more modest proportions and that this, for instance, could be accomplished by not necessarily building an indoor ice palace but erecting a building of plainer design.
5. It is recommended that the opening and the closing ceremonies be simplified. These ceremonies should constitute impressive, but dignified, rituals commensurate with the status of the I.O.C.

6. It is recommended that all official social activities be reduced to the minimum.
7. It was further agreed that in order to reduce the cost to the hosting city involved with organizing the Winter Games, it should not be necessary to call a plenary meeting of the I.O.C. to coincide with these Games, in view of the fact that such a plenary meeting is held during that same year in any case, viz. on the occasion of the Summer Games. If this recommendation were adopted this would also have the effect of reducing expenses, both for the I.O.C. and its members. On the other hand it was stressed that the meetings between the Executive Board and the International Winter Sports Federations in connection with the Games are absolutely essential. However, it was agreed that such meetings should preferably take place after the Games, since this would enable the delegates to present their views and recommendations with more competence. The results of such meetings could then be presented to the I.O.C. for consideration at the main session in the summer of that same year.
8. The Commission does not recommend transferring certain events from the Olympiad to the Winter Games, as has been proposed in certain I.O.C. circles in the past.
9. If any, or all, of the recommendations listed in this report are finally adopted, it is suggested that they should not be applied to the Sapporo Games in 1972 unless, of course, the Japanese Organization Committee should express the desire to have them applied.
10. It is recommended that the contents of this report, as well as the subject of the Olympic Winter Games in their entirety, be discussed not later than at the I.O.C. Session in Warsaw in 1969, so that potential candidate cities for the 1976 Winter Games will be fully aware of the wishes and requirements of the I.O.C. and can take the same into account before submitting their applications to the I.O.C. at the Amsterdam Session in 1970.
11. The technical recommendations should on no account be put into effect until they have been thoroughly discussed with the International Federations by the I.O.C. In these discussions with the International Federations however, strong emphasis should be laid on the point of "normalization" of the Winter Games.