

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

BULGARIA

- * *Mental preparation of the athlete* was the subject of the International Scientific Conference held in Varna in December 1968. Mr. José FERAR OMBRAVELLA, Secretary General of the International Sports Psychology Association stated to the press :

"Psychology is the science best qualified to fight the doping problem, which is an evil that does great damage to sport and is quite inhuman. It should be liquidated once and for all as harmful and unnecessary."

CAMEROONS

- * At the general meeting on the 25th January, Mr. Ernest WANKO (engineer-mechanic-electronics expert) was re-elected President of the Cameroons Olympic Committee. Mr. François SANDJI, doctor of pharmacy, replaces the Secretary General Mr. Gaston EKWE KUOH who, for reasons of health, did not stand again for election, although still remaining a member of the Cameroons Olympic Committee. The new office is completed by Professor René ESSOMBA (surgeon), 1st Vice-President, Mr. Moise MOULIOM MFENDJOU (civil servant), 2nd Vice-President, Mr. Fabien MBARGA (principal administrator), 3rd Vice-President, and Mr. Rodolphe HTONE (businessman), general treasurer.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- * *4800th out of 8200 starters.* The Secretary General of the Czechoslovak Olympic Committee, Mr. Vladimír PAČL, 45 years old, took part in the *Vasaloppet* and finished the 50-mile course more than honourable, coming 4800th.

DENMARK

* *New address :*

The President of the Danish Olympic Committee,
Mr. Gudmond SCHACK has sent us the following new address :

*Danmarke Olympiske Komite
Jernbanegade 7, 1608 Copenhagen V
Telephone : 01 / 14 66 44*

GERMANY (Democratic Republic)

- * The bust of Pierre de COUBERTIN sculpted by the artist Wieland FORSTER a hundred years after the Baron's birth, has been donated by the East German Olympic Committee to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. A copy of this work, which is the subject of a special stamp shortly to be issued has been placed in the hall of the *Deutsche Hochschule für Körperkultur* in Leipzig.

FRANCE

- * *Possibility of French Games.* The office of the French Olympic Committee recently mentioned the possibility of creating *French Games*.
- * *Camille MANDRILLON, a great figure at the first Winter Olympics* since he took the oath on behalf of all competitors at the Chamonix Games in 1924, has just died at the age of 78. Last year, at the Grenoble Games, he was one of the last to carry the flame.
- Death of another pioneer of French sport : Fernand GONDER.* Born in 1883, he beat the world pole jump record in 1904, then two years later won the Gold Medal at the Athens Games, celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Olympic Games, after jumping 51 times (!) during the competition.

HONG KONG

- * *From the 1st March to the 6th April : 12th Festival of sport.* Organized every year since 1958, this sports meeting is growing more and more popular, with the number of

clubs and associations taking part increasing all the time. The programme includes gymnastics, fencing, basketball, rowing, sailing, weight-lifting, table tennis, volleyball, boxing, judo, shooting, badminton, tennis and bowling. The President of the Hong Kong Olympic Committee and the Amateur Sports Federation, Mr. A. de O. SALES writes in his foreword to the programme:

"It is the Federation's aim to interest youth in sport and recreation. For this reason, the Federation has urged all sports organizations to give the young people of Hong Kong every possible chance to take part in games and has tried to impress upon all sports leaders the importance of setting up training and coaching programmes for this purpose.

It is to the youth of Hong Kong that this Federation dedicates each year's Festival of Sport."

ITALY

- * *On the agenda of the National Council of the Italian National Olympic Committee, convened for the 7th May : statement 1968, election of the President, nomination of the secretary general, election of two vice-presidents and six members of the Executive Board.*

NIGERIA

- * *The Annual General Meeting of the Nigeria Olympic Committee was held on the 5th March, 1969, under the patronage of Sir Adetokunbo ADEMOLA, member of the International Olympic Committee since 1963, and the following officers were elected for the current Olympiad :*

President : Colonel H.E.O. ADEFOPE
Vice Presidents : Dr. S.L. ADESUYI
Mr. S.O. WILLIAMS
Honorary Secretary : Mr. A.A. ORDIA
Honorary Treasurer : Mr. J.L.A. ONASANYA

PORTUGAL

- * *In the presence of General Raul Cordeiro PEREIRA DE CASTRO, member of the International Olympic Committee for Portugal, an extraordinary meeting adopted the new statutes of the*

Portuguese Olympic Committee and elected a new Executive Board made up as follows :

President: General Alexandre Gomes de Lemos Correa Leal.
Vice-President: Gaudencio Luis da Silva Costa. Secretary general: Raul Rodrigues Worm. Treasurer: Fernando Luis Pereira Machado. Full members: Francisco Rafael Rodrigues Junior, Vincente de Paulo Martins, Colonel D. Domingos de Sousa Coutinho (Funchal), Luis Valente Miramon, Lauro Gomes de Amorim. Deputy members: Lieutenant-Colonel Lelio de Almeida Ribeiro, Lieutenant-Colonel Dr. Antonio Augusto Fernandes Tender, Dr. Francisco Manuel de Bethencourt Conceição Rodrigues.

SOUTH AFRICA

- * On the 23rd March last, the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee sent the following telegram to the National Olympic Committee of South Africa :

"The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee, having seen the use of the Olympic symbols on insignia, stamps, etc in connection with the "All White South African Games", censures the South African National Olympic Committee for the misuse of these symbols with Games contrary to Olympic principles and ideals."

SPAIN

- * Among the most recent items of news regarding Spanish Olympic Sport sent us by Mr. Juan Antonio SAMARANCH, member of the International Olympic Committee and President of the Spanish Olympic Committee, let us quote :
- * *An Olympic Preparation Committee* within the Spanish Olympic Committee. Mr. Anselmo LOPEZ, Vice-President of the Spanish Olympic Committee, entrusted with full powers for the completion of his mission, becomes the head of this organization created with Saporro and Munich in view.
- * *Respecting the Olympic Emblems and Appellations*
To do this in accordance with the provisions laid down by the International Olympic Committee and contained in the Physical Education Law and the Regulations of the Spanish Olympic Committee, the watchfulness of the authorities is being stepped up.

- * A *Medal of Olympic Merit*, awarded by the Spanish Olympic Committee, will represent the highest sports distinction in Spain. It will be awarded to athletes and personalities, both national and foreign, distinguishing themselves particularly in the practice, management, development, organization and glorification of Olympic sport.

SWITZERLAND

- * *The Swiss Olympic Days* will be celebrated in Lausanne on the 4th and 5th July, 1969.
- * *Mr. Raymond GAFNER*, was re-elected President of the Swiss Olympic Committee at the 56th General Meeting of the SOC. Mr. WEYMANN keeps his post as Secretary General.

This re-election seems to have met with unanimous approval throughout Switzerland, as witness, for example, this excerpt from an article by Gerald A. PIAGET in the *Tribune de Genève* :

"The Swiss Olympic Committee (SOC) may well pride itself on having at its head one of the best presidents in the country, if not the best, and one who moreover devotes to his veritable passion of Olympism all the time he can spare from his work as director of the Lausanne Cantonal Hospital. The choice of Mr. Raymond GAFNER is unanimously approved, even in the German-speaking part of the country - which is saying a great deal ! And the way in which he handles the discussion of the annual meeting of the SOC shows clearly his unbounded faith in Olympism and his great gifts. Generally this kind of meeting is a rather tiresome and sleep-inducing matter of routine, but in Berne on Saturday it became something lively and exciting, so much so that it would seem as if the cause of Olympism were really coming to life in this country."

- * *The draft of the new statutes of the Swiss Olympic Committee* designed to replace those that have been in force since 1944 was unanimously adopted.
- * With the admission of the Swiss University Sports Association, the number of sports associations and federations recognized by SOC amounts to thirty-two.
- * *Dr. Francis MESSERLI* will soon be 81. The faithful friend of Baron Pierre de COUBERTIN, historian of the Inter-

national Olympic Committee, and founder in 1912 of the Swiss Olympic Committee, did not fail to attend the General Meeting of the SOC.

- * *SOC has published its report* for the period from the 1st April, 1968 to the 15th March, 1969. A brief review will be included in the *Newsletter* for the month of May.

UGANDA

- * The Honorary Secretary of the Uganda Olympic Committee, Mr. Hassan SUNDERANI, has been decorated "*Grand Member of Uganda Sport.*" This special award has been given to Mr. SUNERANI by the Uganda National Council of Sports in consultation with the Uganda Olympic Committee in appreciation of his outstanding services and dedication to amateur sports in Uganda. This award is the highest and first ever to be given to a Ugandan.



UNITED STATES

- * *From London to Mexico 1968, Mrs. Janice LEE ROMERY* took part in six consecutive Olympic fencing tournaments. At the opening ceremony of the 19th Olympic Games she carried her country's flag, the first time this honour has ever been granted to a woman in North America. Tribute was paid to her at a reception attended by Olympic athletes from Southern California.
- * Ever since *Charles J. BACON* became 40C m. Olympic hurdles champion in 1908, he never ceased to promote the Olympic spirit, being one of the national presidents of the *Club of Olympians*, for the State of New York, and being the founder of the Florida section. We are sorry to have to announce his death in For Lauderdale.