

IN JUNE IN LAUSANNE AND WARSAW

MEETINGS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS 68TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



The commemorative medal

Meetings of the greatest importance are going to be held in Lausanne and Warsaw at the beginning of June.

Those responsible for Olympic sport, whether members of the International Olympic Committee or heads of International Federations will be discussing problems of vital importance to the future of Olympism. It is not the first time that fresh decisions have had to be made or that new directions will perhaps have to be followed. The Olympic Movement has often been criticized for its ultra-conservatism. But if one closely examines the form given to the I.O.C. by Baron de COUBERTIN some 75 years ago, the programme of the first Games and the evolution that occurred since, what a lot of changes have been made !

This continual revision of the Regulations, while remaining within reasonable limits, was nevertheless a task envisaged and assumed by leaders of the Olympic Movement.

What will be the subjects for discussion in June ? Further on, you will find the agenda for the meeting of the Executive Board of the I.O.C. with the I.F.s, which will be held in Lausanne on the 3rd June. The Olympic Programme, and the rules governing the Games, are seen to be the major concerns

of both parties. It is interesting to point out in this respect that in drafting this agenda, drawn up jointly by the I.O.C. and the I.F.s, the same subjects often appeared at the request of each.

The day after the Meeting, members of the I.O.C. will leave Lausanne for Warsaw where the 69th Plenary Session of the I.O.C. will be held in the Cabinet's Palace, the former Radziwill Palace. The agenda of this session is also given elsewhere.

Among the burning questions down for discussion at this session (6th to the 10th June) is the request made by the National Olympic Committees at Mexico to exclude the South African Committee.

The discussion will be no less heated when it comes to examining the reports of the various committees on the Olympic Programme, the future of the Winter Games or the rules that require amending.

The Organizing Committees of the Sapporo and Munich Games will report on the progress of their preparations. A number of International Federations will be applying for admission to the Olympic family, awards will be given to those who have served the interests of sport and Olympism.

Apart from the work sessions, our Polish friends have planned an interesting programme of entertainment. Two events are particularly outstanding: the inauguration of an exhibition in the Museum of Physical Culture and Tourism and the finals of a competition for young Polish athletes called "Olympic Games for the Young".

The Museum of Physical Culture and Tourism, placed in the expert hands of Mrs. Maria BRZEZICKA, former physical training instructress, was inaugurated in 1966. According to its founders it had an extremely modest start. In fact, it was thanks to the gifts of objects and souvenirs by former officials and sportsmen that it was able to be started at all. Now the library contains some 5,000 volumes. The Museum has its own records department, photographic laboratory (10,000 cards), and iconographic and documentation departments.



*Warsaw: Museum of Physical Culture and Tourism
Partial views of the exhibition hall*

Permanent and temporary exhibitions familiarize the public with the problems of sport and tourism.

This Museum is undoubtedly not the first of its kind in the world. Austria, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United States, not to mention Switzerland, have similar ones. Other countries are on the point of creating museums of this kind, in particular France, Yugoslavia and Rumania.

The other event is the athletics meeting for all young Poles in the main Warsaw Stadium, known as the Xth Anniversary Stadium, situated in the heart of the town on the right bank of the Vistula. All through the year local, municipal and regional heats have been held. On Olympic Day, which in 1969 will be Saturday, the 7th June, those selected will compete in Warsaw. The prize for the young victors will be one of the five Olympic rings. In succeeding years and competitions, they will be able to add one, two, and then three to this first ring. Those who win their selection for Sapporo or Munich at the end of the Olympiad in 1972 will be entitled to the fifth ring.

A reception in Wilanov Palace, one of Poland's masterpieces of baroque architecture, will be given by the President of the Council of State. Excursions to Cracow, Poland's holy town, and to Bialowicza and its forest, the biggest in Central Europe, will offer a pleasant diversion during the I.O.C. members' stay in this hospitable and sporting country, whose destiny has been one of the most tragic and tumultuous of modern times.

In choosing Warsaw for the 68th Session, the International Olympic Committee wished to pay homage to the Polish Olympic Committee, which will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on the 5th June, to its President Mr. Vladimir RECZEK, who has succeeded in preserving and developing the love of sport in his country, to Professor Jerzy LOTH, his predecessor on the I.O.C., and finally to all the compatriots of Copernicus, Chopin and Marie Curie.

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