

THE MEETINGS IN DUBROVNIK:

23rd - 27th October 1969

For several days this autumn, Dubrovnik, "the pearl of the Adriatic", will become the capital of world sport. In point of fact, the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee will be holding a two-day meeting with the Presidents and Secretary Generals of all the National Olympic Committees on 25th and 26th October.

Thus the principal leaders of international sport will assemble a year after the Games of the XIXth Olympiad in Mexico with the aim of giving a precise account of their activities, and of explaining their present problems, to which they will try and find mutually agreeable solutions.

On 23rd October the National Olympic Committees will meet amongst themselves to draw up a number of resolutions. It goes without saying that the difficulties of each Committee - of which there are 127 - are essentially very varied because of their individual constitutions, resources, general support, and their geographical and economic situations.

They have no common laws apart from the basic statutes laid down by the IOC and which are indispensable for their official recognition. Many are therefore rich and powerful, living off state subsidies, lotteries and private proceeds, meanwhile others merely vegetate and are hard put even to carry out their administrative duties.

The richest Committees are continuously active; the poor ones doze gently and like the salamander only kindle their flames as the Olympic Games draw near.

At the beginning of the century Pierre de COUBERTIN made clear his views on the need for creating National Olympic Committees and on their constitution:

"They must not", he wrote, be created from the main Federations or Sports societies of the country and they must in principle rise above the internal problems which

exist nearly everywhere. Therefore, they have to be composed of competent people who are beyond reproach and free from influences of external organisations. It is to everybody's advantage that these Committees should be permanent, in order that they can meet whenever required, even during the intervals between Olympiads. But -these meetings need not be long or frequent. One cannot emphasize enough the danger of making a National Olympic Committee into a central mechanism and a director of sports activities in a country. Discord would result, because the Federations would not tolerate such an encroachment on their prerogatives. The duty of a National Committee is to give help when needed, and facilitate its representatives to participate in the Olympic Games".

The mission of the NOCs today remains the same: to encourage representatives of a country to take part in the Olympic Games. This does not mean that they simply act as travel agents. Their task is to establish a plan of action within their country which is efficient enough to arouse interest, to promote the principles and ideals of Olympism and to make young people wish vehemently for the possibility of achieving this supreme honour for an athlete: participation in the Olympic Games.

During the meetings, similar to those in Dubrovnik, which were held in Mexico a year ago, various questions were put to the IOC. In order to examine these fully, and to take into account all the problems they might provoke, five joint commissions were set up, each consisting of six representatives of the IOC and six from the NOCs - hence the name "joint". These commissions were charged with certain work according to their particular terms of reference:-

- The Aid Commission, President: Mr. SAMARANCH (Spain) is concerned with the question of how much help can be given to the NOCs and in what form.
- The Eligibility Commission, President: Mr. SIPERCO (Rumania) aims to revise the rules concerning the inscription of athletes in the Olympic Games.
- The Commission for Legislation, Discrimination and Relations between NOCs and their Governments, President: Mr. von FRENCKELL (Finland).

- The Commission for the Olympic Programme, Officials at the Games and designation of cities to stage the Games, President: Mr. CSANADI (Hungary).
- The Commission for IOC Membership, IOC/NOC Relations, Annual meetings and Olympic Congresses, President: Mr. ONESTI (Italy).

These five commissions were placed under the charge of another committee which combines the Presidents of the commissions together with three IOC members: Mr. Wajid ALI, Mr. Constantin ANDRIANOV and General Jose de J. CLARK, who takes the chair.

The task of the Co-ordinating and Supervising Committee is to guide and harmonize the joint commissions and ensure they do their work properly without overstepping their rights.

We give hereafter the time-table for these strenuous few days in the Hotel Excelsior. Meetings of various special IOC Commissions will also take place here. In the same way our Yugoslav friends have drawn up a social programme with the aim of showing their beautiful country to all those who will be coming to what was formerly Ragusa with its past "steeped in history".

<p>Saturday, October 25</p>	<p>10.00 13.00 15.30</p>	<p><i>Opening of the Meeting between the IOC Executive Board and the National Olympic Committees</i></p> <p>Lunch given by Mr. POLIC, President of the Yugoslav Olympic Committee, for the Executive Board</p> <p><i>Executive Board with the National Olympic Committees</i></p>
<p>Sunday, October 26</p>	<p>9.00 15.30 20.30</p>	<p><i>Executive Board with the National Olympic Committees</i></p> <p>Lunch given by Mr. RIBICIC, President of the Yugoslav Government, for the Executive Board</p> <p><i>Reports from the Organizing Committees of Munich and Sapporo</i></p> <p><i>Report from Prince George of Hanover, President of the International Olympic Academy</i></p> <p><i>Banquet for all delegates, given by the Yugoslav Olympic Committee</i></p>
<p>Monday, October 27</p>	<p>9.00-13.00</p>	<p>Executive Board</p>