



## Death of His Excellency

Mohammed TAHER

Mr. Suat Eler, member of the I. O. C. for Turkey, cabled us on January 27th to tell us the sad news of the death of His Excellency Mohammed TAHER the day before, in Istanbul.

Taher Pasha was a great-hearted man, of rare distinction and culture, a modern-day knight whose kindness, depth of understanding and tremendous courtesy, combined with the greatest simplicity everyone remembers with emotion.

A Doctor of Political and Social Sciences, he followed the career of a statesman, devoting his leisure to sport, which he practised himself. In 1931 he founded the Aero-Club of Egypt and became its president. He was co-founder of the Egyptian airlines.

He was also president of many other sports associations: the National Sports Committee of Egypt from 1934 to 1942, the International Aeronautical Federation from 1934 to 1947, the Egyptian Fencing Federation from 1936 to 1952, President of the Royal Fencing Club, and the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, of which he was also the founder.

In 1951 he created and organized the first Mediterranean Games in Alexandria, then the World Fencing Championship in Cairo in 1934 and the International and European Championships, held in Egypt in 1952.

His activities as a member of the International Olympic Committee, to which he had been elected in 1934, were as numerous and varied as they were effective. He was made assistant to the President of the I. O. C. from 1960 to 1964, and was elected an honorary member of the I. O. C. in 1969.

Although living in retirement in Geneva for several years, he kept all his old love for his native country, Egypt. At the end of 1968 he paid his last visit to our Lausanne headquarters before leaving for Istanbul, where he wished to end his days.

With the death of His Excellency Mohammed TAHER, we lose one of the pioneers of international sport and an invaluable friend and active promoter of Olympism.

\*

\*

\*