

69th SESSION of the I.O.C.

Once again Amsterdam is getting ready to welcome the leaders of world sport.

It will be remembered that in 1928 the capital of the Netherlands enjoyed the honour of organizing the Games of the IXth Olympiad. Their success, with 46 participating countries, rewarded the efforts of the Dutch, an industrious people with a long and fine tradition behind them. They had wanted to set a special new stamp upon the Olympic Games. And to this end, the architect Jan Wils built a huge bowl towering above the athletics stadium, in which the Olympic flame burned brightly for two whole weeks of sport.

On the occasion of these Games, Pierre de COUBERTIN who had resigned from the Presidency of the I.O.C. four years previously, addressed a message to all present in Amsterdam. In the following pages, we reproduce this text, which has lost none of its topicality as far as certain problems are concerned.

It was in Amsterdam therefore, as a prelude to the Games, that the 26th Session of the I.O.C. was held. A resolution presented by General Sherrill (United States) was unanimously adopted by the meeting. It concerned the football and tennis federations and - already - committed the future. We also give it below for our readers.

Since members of the I.O.C. heads of the international federations, future organizers of the Games that will be celebrate the XXIst Olympiad, will be living for a fortnight on the soil of the subjects of Queen Juliana, let us remind readers that the first member of the I.O.C. ever to be elected was a Dutchman, Baron de Tuyll van Serooskerken, in 1898. A personality of the highest repute and a great promoter of sport in his country, the Baron de Tuyll held this post until his death in 1924. Colonel Scharro was then elected and remained a member until 1957. In 1925 the I.O.C. honoured Holland by selecting a second ambassador of sport from this country, Baron

Schimmelpenninck van der Oye, who was succeeded in 1946 by the famous General Pahud de Mortanges, Olympic obstacle jumping champion. In 1964 General Pahud de Mortanges asked to be made an honorary member, thus allowing the accession of Jonkheer Herman van Karnebeek.

It is Mr. van Karnebeek, a member of the Executive Board since 1968, who will have the pleasure of welcoming his colleagues on May 7th next, since he is also President of the Netherlands Olympic Committee.

A small reminder. This will be the third session of the I.O.C. to be held in the Netherlands, since Amsterdam's administrative neighbour, The Hague, welcomed the 9th session of the I.O.C. in May 1907. The chief aim of this meeting was to decide on the programme for the 1908 Games, which were held in London owing to the defection of Rome and the efficiency of Mr. W.H. Grenfell, who has since become Lord Desborough of Taplow and President of the British Olympic Association.

As Pierre de COUBERTIN related in his "Memoirs": *"The session at The Hague was one of the most brilliant. His Excellency Mr. van Tets van Goudriaan, Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, welcomed members of the I.O.C. on behalf of the government."* This speech is also given below.

In this brief summary of past events in the Olympic life of the host nation for the 69th session, we must not forget those in whose honour the flag of the House of Orange has been raised on the Olympid flagpole.

Mr. A.Th. Bijkerk, well known in his country as an Olympic statistician, has been kind enough to name the "Big Four" for us, the greatest of the Dutch champions: a horseman: General Pahud de Mortanges - four gold medals and one silver; a fencer: A.E.W. de Jong, who took part in five Olympic Games and won five bronze medals; a women swimmer: Ria Mastenbroek - three gold medals and one silver; a women athlete: Fanny Blankers-Koen - four gold medals.

Another interesting detail: representatives of the Netherlands have been taking part in the Games since 1900 and have won 33 gold medals in the Summer Games, 4 in the Winter Games and 2 in the art competitions.



To return to May 1970. In the pages that follow, our readers will be able to take note of the programme of the May meetings, the agenda of the session, and the method adopted for the election of the towns that are candidates for holding the Games.

We would also call their attention to the eminent members of the Olympic Committee who will be their hosts for almost two weeks, and who have planned each moment of their stay down to the last detail.



From top to bottom:

- Secretary General:
Dr. Ch. van der Ploeg
- Director:
Mr. Adrian Paulen
- Secretary General of the Organizing Committee of the session:
Mr. H. van der Woerd



We wish all those taking part every success in their work and may all their decisions be wise ones!

Monique BERLIOUX