



From right to left - standing: Mr. Alexandru SIPERCO, Dr. Helmut KASER, Secretary General of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, Sir Stanley ROUS, President of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, Mr. Arpad CSANADI, Mr. Arthur GANDER, President of the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique. seated: Lord KILLANIN, Jonkheer Herman A. van KARNEBEEK, Comte Jean de BEAUMONT.

EVENTS SINCE JANUARY

Having been commissioned by the Executive Board to meet with the representatives of the International Federations, the three Vice-Presidents, Lord KILLANIN (Ireland), Comte Jean de BEAUMONT (France), and Jonkheer Herman A. van KARNEBEEK (Netherlands), went to London, Paris and Lausanne between 5th and 14th January.

There was a double purpose to these meetings:

- *to examine the texts governing the eligibility rules in each of the International Federations and to see with them which commonly based rule could be adapted, conforming to the needs of the interested parties;*
- *to discuss the Olympic programme and to plan the way in which it could be modified and reduced, since everybody agrees that the programme is too extensive and too costly.*

Mr. Alexandru SIPERCO (Rumania), President of the Joint Commission on Eligibility and Mr. Arpad CSANADI (Hungary) President of the Joint Commission for the Olympic Programme, were also present at these meetings, which were held in an atmosphere of the greatest cordiality. Mr. Hugh WEIR (Australia) President of the Eligibility Commission, was not able to come to Europe.

On 14th January, the three Vice-Presidents and the two members of the International Olympic Committee met with President Avery BRUNDAGE to study all the responses they had received and to plan for the drawing up of a new rule.

At the end of these discussions, a circular letter was sent by Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE to all the members of the International Olympic Committee, to the National Olympic Committees, and to the International Federations. The text of the letter was as follows:

"Meetings of the three International Olympic Committee Vice-Presidents with the International Federations apparently were a great success and we must thank the Vice-Presidents and the officers of the International Federations for the time and energy they gave to this constructive project, which has substantially improved our relations with these important organisations".

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We must also remember that Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE has sent the following questions to all the members of the International Olympic Committee, in the form of a mail vote and conforming to Rule 20 of the Rules and Regulations:

1. Are the alpine skiers who participated in the Lange Commercial Ski Racing Camp last year eligible for the Olympic Winter Games?
2. Are alpine skiers whose names and pictures are being widely used to advertise commercial products eligible for the Olympic Winter Games?
3. Is a skier who publicly boasts of making \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year from his skiing connections and participates in the labelled uniform of his employer eligible for the Olympic Winter Games?
4. Do you approve of the request of the F.I.S. to permit payment to alpine skiers for 5½ months of broken time?

The responses will be opened at the next meeting of the Executive Board, which will be held in Lausanne on the 13th and 14th March.

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With regard to the ski problem, we set out below, in addition, the communiqué sent by the United States Olympic Committee on 25th January, 1971:

"Voicing its increasing concern and alarm over the gradual erosion of the amateur eligibility code and its potential impact on current and future Olympic Games, the United States Olympic Committee today urged the International Olympic Committee to take immediate and positive action to permanently resolve the problem.

The U.S.O.C., through action of its Board of Directors meeting January 19-20 in Denver, Colo., indicated by letter to IOC President Avery BRUNDAGE its unqualified support of his efforts to alleviate this problem, particularly in the sport of Alpine Skiing, but cautioned that any delay now would only lead to similar situations such as experienced at the 1968 Olympic Winter Games in Grenoble.

'It is our feeling', said USOC President Clifford H. BUCK, 'that direct enforcement of Olympic eligibility rules by the International Olympic Committee, with full cooperation of the Fédération Internationale de Ski and the National Olympic Committees, is necessary. While we agree that present regulations should be updated, we do not recommend that lowering of standards to appease the selfish interests of a few is justifiable.

'We must assure the thousands of young athletes who wish to pursue an amateur sports career to the ultimate heights of Olympic achievement that they will compete with one another on a fair and equitable basis, and not be handicapped because special privileges are being given a relatively few individuals for lack of positive enforcement of Olympic rules.'

The United States Olympic Committee made a matter of record its complete disapproval of the obvious subterfuges which are becoming so prevalent and notorious and which so flagrantly violate the amateur status of participants in certain sports."

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