



*Chancellor Willy
BRANDT is also an
excellent fisherman.*

CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT AND SPORT

At the 5th Physical Training Congress held at Münster (Westphalia) in West Germany, Chancellor Willy BRANDT, for the first time since he took over as head of state, made a public statement regarding the problems of sport. Here are some of the main points of his speech:

"There is no need here to remind you of the importance of sport for our society. Let me simply tell you that the government is aware of its responsibilities and ready to help and cooperate with you, who serve the cause of sport and physical training. We know that there is still much for us to do in order to create ideal conditions, but I hope that our determination to help in this field has been understood.

The Government holds the view that sport is the responsibility of independent sports organizations and that, under no circumstances, should sport be placed under the control of the State. However, I believe I am justified in saying that Bonn, with regard to the help it gives sport and will continue to give, has absolutely no need to be ashamed. The work accomplished in this field is described in the report submitted to the Federal Parliament by the Minister for Home Affairs. This report details the steps taken so far by the Government, describes our plans and makes proposals for their application. The favourable reception of this report in sports circles encourages us to persevere along these lines. All the subsidies granted to the German Sports Federation, the National Olympic Committee and the national federations were considerably increased in 1970. In the allocation of these grants, the emphasis was placed on stepping up training in the federations so as to guarantee the best possible preparation of our athletes for 1972.

A proper promotion of sport is possible however only if the public and private organizations agree to pool their efforts.

There remains, for instance, a tremendous amount to be done in the field of sport for the population as a whole or sport in schools. Experience has shown that the more involved a person becomes in his professional life, the greater his need for strenuous physical exercise. Consequently, one of our

most important task is to encourage more and more people to take an active interest in sport. And I would like to add something that many people do not know, that sport is also excellent for the elderly. In its report the Federal Government emphasized that increased sports activity at all levels of society was, in its opinion, indispensable. Consequently, we shall try to give sport, especially in primary, secondary and higher schools, the place it deserves. In addition, explanatory brochures with physical culture exercises and tests could be published for the teaching staff.

With regard to university sport, we are faced with two important tasks: the first involves a wide range of carefully planned sports programmes, which should be made available to all students in places of higher education. The second concerns the training of physical training instructors. In a society whose future depends to a large extent on the achievements of scientists, sport too must be the subject of research and study.

Apart from our programme for the promotion of sport, we are trying to protect the health of man better against the dangers inherent in our industrialized society. I am thinking here in particular of the fight against noise. Our best sports facilities are all to no avail if we cannot overcome these dangers.

In this connection, allow me to add a few words on drugs. The misuse of these is becoming a veritable plague threatening the youth of the country. We shall have to put a stop to this, prevent the uncontrolled spread of these drugs and open a dialogue with these young people who think that they can escape the realities of daily life by seeking refuge in a world of dreams and illusions. In actual fact, only continual hard work can change our world, and not a fanciful trip on a pink cloud.

One last word, about the Olympic Games which are to be held in Germany in 1972. We are proud to be able to organize these Games and must see to it that they are a festival of peace and international understanding. The Games must contribute to creating new bonds of friendship and strengthening those that already exist between East and West, North and South, between the countries of the whole world. As hosts, it is our duty to provide proper facilities and to make our guests' stay as enjoyable as possible.

But we also have an opportunity of making ourselves known to our immediate or distant neighbours, of showing them a modern Germany, which seeks exchanges with all peoples who think the way we do".