

Santiago, Chile, 29th May, 1973.

## Opening of the PASO Congress

The IOC President,  
Lord Killanin's speech.

be the occasion for a policy speech when I have assimilated all views.

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Mr. President, Excellencies and Friends,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of meeting the Pan-American National Olympic Committees and ODEPA/PASO gathered here in Santiago two years four months and eighteen days before the next Pan-American Games.

I am very conscious of my lack of knowledge of many of the points affecting the Olympic Movement and sport in general on this Continent. It is for this reason that I come here more to learn than to preach.

My distinguished predecessor, Mr. Avery Brundage, who has held high office in your organisation, is well known to you over several decades and I only hope that by being here I am able to make some of the contacts that will help us all to co-operate in the future of the Olympic Movement.

Unfortunately, I speak no Spanish and must restrict myself to English.

This address will not be a major policy speech but I will raise certain points which we will have to solve between ourselves and in close conjunction with the International Federations. The Congress and Session at Varna this year will

You may have noticed that recently the priority of the "*Fundamental principles of the Olympic Rules and Regulations*" were changed and Rule No. 1, instead of primarily referring to the Olympic Games being held every four years, now starts:

*"The aims of the Olympic Movement are to promote the development of those fine physical and moral qualities which are the basis of amateur sport and to bring together the Olympic Competitors of the world in a great quadrennial festival of sports thereby creating international respect and goodwill and thus helping to construct a better and more peaceful world."*

*The reason for this change was that the IOC realises that its responsibility does not only lie in the Games but in the promotion of the ideals continually.*

The Olympic Movement to which we belong is tripartite. There is the IOC, which is a self electing body and acts as Trustees of the Olympic Movement. There are some perhaps who would like to see this changed and "democratised". The danger of this is of course that the Olympic Movement becomes more viable to political pressure.

To close our eyes to the fact that there are political problems is of course unwise and I can assure you that it will not be done by me.



*On the right, Lord Killanin and the Chilean Minister of Defence, Mr. José Toha, congratulating the President of the PASO, Mr. José Beracasa, IOC member for Venezuela.*

The next group consists of the International Federations. While the IOC is responsible for the spirit and principle, the International Federations are responsible for the implementation of all technical organisation and control of their rules. The third party the NOCs consists of National Federations who on one side are affiliated to International Federations and on the other to its NOC.

National Olympic Committees have thus a dual relationship. They have direct access to the International Olympic Committee, but each individual national federation is also affiliated to its own international federation. It is absolutely imperative that this trio works very closely together.

We are approaching the last quarter of the 20th century, and what the IOC does now

will have its *full* effect perhaps not next year perhaps not in 1976, perhaps not in 1980, but certainly in 1984 and to the year 2000 onwards.

At the end of September, at Varna, in Bulgaria, there is an *Olympic Congress* and I sincerely hope that all the NOCs here will be represented.

I realise the distances and expenses are great but if each NOC can be represented it will give great weight to this Congress. To my mind it is all the more important that the Pan-American Groups which are so important and strong should go there to listen and to express their views.

As you know, there is no voting at this Congress but we will be discussing *three major topics*:

1. *Re-definition of the Olympic Movement and its future, taking into consideration past and present experiences.*
2. *Relations between the IOC, IFS and NOCs.*
3. *The pattern of future Olympic Games and the consequences.*

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The Olympic points which make the daily news come under the following headings:

- a) Eligibility for Competitions;
- b) the Programme;
- c) political Freedom.

I can say a few words on each of these so that you may know how I personally am thinking since I was elected as President of the IOC and I think in many ways in line with the various individuals both Members of the IOC, NOCs, and IFs with whom I have discussed the problems.

- Other than on the grounds of Nationality correct affiliation, etc., the basic Eligibility Rule is that laid down in Rule 26. There are very many divergent views from country to country and from sport to sport. It is *not* the intention of the IOC to open the Games to professionalism, that is those who are paid for their sports performance. These professional sportsmen can be and

are a great help to sport, but we are concerned with Olympic competitors, whose sport is for fun and recreation in accordance with our principle. The Eligibility Commission of the IOC is reviewing this rule and it will be discussed at the next executive meeting at the end of the coming month. Later this rule will be discussed with the IFs and the IOC, it will be a topic at Varna, as it was in the first Congress in Paris in 1894.

Mr. Brundage always said that we will be discussing this rule for years to come, as we have been since the inauguration of the Olympic Games. My only request is that at this stage we must be realists and allow that there should be no discrimination against a person being an Olympic Competitor for fear that he cannot afford to be one. At the same time we must define very clearly where the line is drawn between this competitor and the paid professionals who are public performers (also good sportsmen).

- There are now 21 possible sports on the Olympic Programme and at the Games in Montreal all 21 are to be included as at Munich. This is creating a problem in that it might be possible that there might come a day with no candidate City for the Olympic Games. There should not be discrimination against a country because its NOC cannot afford to host the Games.

Much has been stated about the costs of the Games, naturally with Gigantism the costs may go up as this includes subsidies for competitors, sportswriters, technicians etc. The basic value of the Olympic Games

other than a fortnight of world wide publicity is that no city has really been left with any white elephants in the shape of stadiums or buildings provided the City has planned carefully. What the Olympic Games have bequeathed, in cities where planning has been careful, are facilities which the city might otherwise not have been able to finance. We in the Olympic Movement must not allow ourselves to scatter around the world monuments which are not used for the sake of youth from the day the Games close, and in perpetuity.

officers of a National Olympic Committee or National Federation, who shall compete in the Games, who shall be in attendance as officials. This is something over which they have no right whatsoever and some of you have already fought this problem resolutely. But remember, whilst we must fight against political interference, this does not prohibit co-operation with Government, where it is benefiting our ideals.

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- The last problem, which comes under the “political” heading and there are frequently considerable misunderstandings. The IOC is insistent that Olympism must be free from political interference or dictation.

During your deliberations here you will both in the congress hall or at social functions, discuss the way in which we must go and in which the IOC will endeavour to lead you and help you in the future.

This is very different to receiving assistance and help from Government sources.

My visit here is short, but I would like to tell you that I am free to discuss any matters which may affect your own NOC during my stay and my time is at your disposal.

With the development of leisure it is natural that Governments will wish to facilitate this. It is part of their duty, and whether they are building facilities in small schools for children or assisting in subsidising massive stadia for popular sport when their aid and assistance is welcome.

Hoping that I will renew many friendships and acquaintanships, besides making new ones.

Where it is unwelcome is when those Governments, instead of merely supervising that their money is correctly spent and accounted for, as must be public money, interfere and order who shall be elected

Again, thank you very much for inviting me here and also for listening patiently to the words which I have had to say.

L. K.