

Mr. Mohamed Mzali and African Sport



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Towards a more honest, defined and positive collaboration

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The Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA) met in Tunis at the end of April. Mr. Mohamed Mzali, member of the IOC Executive Board and President of the Tunisian Olympic Committee, was anxious to attend in order to voice on his own behalf a few remarks, the importance of which will certainly not escape our readers.

Thus, he revealed the confusion that seems to exist in the relations between the IOC and the SCSA, in the Statutes of which article 1 specifies that it is a union between African states. Of course, the IOC does understand that NOCs and national federations may have closer ties with their governments, without the understanding and financial assistance of which they would not be able to take on their task of promoting sport in their countries, preparing their sports teams for participation in the Olympic Games and other international meetings. For this reason, Mr. Mzali suggested to the members of the SCSA's Executive that a formula be found which would allow this necessary osmosis between the NOCs and national federations on the one hand and the official sports authorities on the other, would facilitate and guarantee the autonomy of sports leaders and their vital co-operation with government bodies and would reconcile the respect of the IOC's and IFs' rules with the

requirements of any national policy for the promotion and education of young people through sport.

Mr. Mzali remarked that many of those leaders present had been eminent sportsmen, and he therefore wondered whether within this framework there would be any harm in a reasonable number of them being co-opted into their respective NOCs. He felt that this would be an acceptable solution, at least for certain African countries, in order to get over the present duplication: government sports leaders—Olympic leaders.

ON THE AGENDA

18th-25th October 1974

75th IOC Session - Vienna.

22nd October

Presentation of the candidate cities for staging the Games of the XXIIInd Olympiad and the XIIIth Winter Games.

23rd October

Vote for the designation of the cities staging the Games of the XXIIInd Olympiad and the XIIIth Winter Games.

End of February 1975

Meeting of the Executive Board with the National Olympic Committees - Abidjan.

21st-24th May 1975

76th IOC Session - Lausanne.

22nd-25th September 1975

Meeting of the Executive Board - Montreal.