

Around the National Olympic Committees

Belgium



● “Free time and self-fulfilment” is the theme of the 2nd International Congress organized by the Belgian Van Clé Foundation in Brussels, on 5th, 6th and 7th April 1976, for the purpose of drawing up a leisure pursuits charter. Under the patronage of UNESCO and the Chairmanship of Mr. A. Dequae, President of the Belgian Parliament, with the participation of Professor J. Tinbergen, a recent Nobel prizewinner, this congress will examine eight different subjects, all connected with free time and leisure. One of them will be of more particular interest to athletes, its subject being “Sport, physiology and leisure”.

India



● *Indian athletics* are progressing by leaps and bounds. The second Asian Amateur Athletics Championships, held in Seoul last June, gave eloquent proof of this, with India's athletes sweeping the board and winning nine gold, five silver and five bronze medals, at the same time setting several new Asian records, in particular for shot put, thanks to Messrs. Bahadur Singh and Jograj Singh. On their arrival in New Delhi, the Indian team were received at the residence of the President of India, Mr. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad, to whom—as shown in our photograph— Mr.



Umrao Singh, President of the Indian Amateur Athletics Federation, is introducing Mr. Hari Chand, long distance runner and winner of one of India's nine gold medals, who at the same time set a new record for these championships. Mrs. Abida Gegam, the wife of the President, also attended this reception.

Italy



● For the first time since their creation in 1969, *the final of the 7th Youth Games* was not held in Rome but in Palermo, in the south of Italy. Just under 2,000 boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 14 took part. This new venue was a great success, and all observers present were struck by the enthusiasm of competitors and spectators alike and the excellent organization of the Games. Everything would seem to indicate that this successful experience will be continued next year.

Kuwait



● *The July number of the NOC's Bulletin* gives the main decisions reached at the NOC's meeting on 14th June. Thus, at the request of the Board of the NOC, Sheik Fahd-Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, President, and Mr. Khaled Al-Harban, member, decided to postpone for the moment their intention to resign.

The Kuwait NOC decided to join the International Society of Olympic Physicians. Dr. Naim Al-Khanje was chosen as its representative.

● The Board of the General Assembly of NOCs will shortly be examining a request by the Kuwait NOC to have Arabic made one of this organization's working languages.

Rumania



● In a recent number of "Sport in Rumania" (No. 3/1975), the bulletin of the Rumanian NOC, we noticed an interesting article on "Olympic propaganda in Rumania". Below we publish a number of extracts from it.

"... The fact that many candidates cannot attend the course given by the International Olympic Academy has led to the organization, from time to time, of symposiums on Olympic themes, at which those who have been fortunate enough to attend courses at the Academy are invited to submit reports, give lectures, etc. A session of this kind was held quite recently, at Predeal, a mountain resort situated near the Rumanian capital. At this symposium devoted to the theme "Youth and the Olympic Idea", talks were given by Alexandru Siperco, member of the IOC for Rumania ("Olympic Problems of Today"), Lia Manoliu, Vice-President of the Rumanian Olympic Committee, Professor Ion Matei, a teacher at the high school specializing in skiing at Predeal ("Youth and the Olympic Idea"), Professor C. Tudose and the student Radu Mihailescu ("The Psychology of Adolescence, Olympism and Permanent Education"), Professor Radu Fruntes, and the sports writers V. Banciulescu and M. Bira; discussions were also held not only with a view to a better, more careful use of the advice given by those who had attended the Academy's courses, but also regarding the regular holding of symposiums on Olympic themes and the encouragement of the relations established among participants in the courses.

True to the generous ideas of Olympism, the sports press and the "Sport-Tourism" publishing firm make a permanent contribution to the spreading of these ideas.

A few years ago, in several Bucharest high schools, a number of "Olympic Clubs" were formed; these are associations of students keen on sport and anxious to know more about it and to take an active part in Olympic propaganda. These associations organize symposiums, meetings between students and Olympic champions, exhibitions of photographs, books and periodicals dealing with Olympism. The number of these clubs, which play a very important role in the field of Olympic education, is steadily

increasing. Clubs of this kind were also recently formed in high schools in the provinces.

The ROC's scheme, backed by the Ministry of Education and Instruction, involving the issue of an "Olympic Rings" badge to young people who succeed in reaching certain standards in their sports career, is extremely popular in Rumania. A young athlete who has won the right to wear the "five Olympic rings" badge is eligible for training for the next Olympic Games and may take part in the Games either as a competitor or as the ROC's guest.

These different forms of Olympic propaganda in Rumania are accompanied by a great many cultural and artistic schemes and events, such as exhibitions, music festivals, or the printing of graphic works and posters on Olympic subjects. In addition, in the month of June each year, an "Olympic Day" is celebrated, in which several million schoolchildren and students take an active part."

USSR



● The new Sports Palace in the "Dynamo" stadium in Moscow contains halls for training figure skaters, hockey players and gymnasts. The gymnasium covers an area of 2,000 m². An indoor athletics stadium and football ground will shortly be added to these facilities.

● Four Soviet athletes have competed in five successive Olympiads: Igor Ter-Ovanesian in the long jump (1956 to 1972) and Fiodor Choutkov (1952 to 1968), Timir Pignéguine (1956 to 1972) and Constantin Melgounov (1952 to 1968), all three in the yachting events.

● In the Soviet Union, 50.7 million people (29.5% of the total population) between the ages of 10 and 60, practise some kind of sport.

