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... Without the support of the public authorities, physical and sports education would never have reached the level at which it is practised today. Without their intervention its future development within the framework of permanent education would be jeopardised.

I also welcome the representatives of the international non-governmental organisations, and through them, the multitude of voluntary workers, who, at varying levels of responsibility, enable sport to be practised in the climate of enterprise and freedom in which it thrives and without which it would die. From this point of view the presence of Lord Killanin, President of the International Olympic Committee, is particularly valuable...

1. Physical Education and Sport in the Education of Youth

The list of works devoted to the role of physical education and sport in the education of youth and man in general is long. In spite of this abundant literature, these copious speeches, a cramped intellectualism has for a long time only wanted to give sport a minor place at the end of the table where the so-called general disciplines

alone held a place of honour. And yet we can today be convinced that we are reaching our aim, that the ideal of a harmonious union between the body and the spirit is on the verge of achievement. The very holding of this Conference is a sign of an emergence after long work underground—today UNESCO formally reintegrates sport in education, science and culture.

This reintegration is a must.

In industrialised countries sport is increasingly felt to be an indispensable asset, a physical necessity able to give man back his threatened balance. "*Industrial man*" realises that with his rediscovered body he can return to the natural rhythms of the human race. Through competition he aims at surpassing himself, as much as surpassing his fellows.

In the third world countries physical education and sport have shown themselves to be factors in the development process not to be overlooked. In this field too we must endeavour to reply to the needs which the countries concerned themselves define.

Wherever societies develop their relations physical and sports education should be recognised as a socialising factor; like the apprenticeship of a craft, so sport brings the apprenticeship of social and international life.

For these few, rapidly listed reasons, to which could be added many more, the public authorities must accept their responsibilities.

2. Physical Education and Sport, the Public Authorities and the International Non-Governmental Organisations

Whatever may be the sports structures in the large variety of countries that we represent here, physical education and sport could not exist without a concentration of efforts by the voluntary organisations and public authorities.

The multitude of sportsmen, the cost of installations, the fact that the conception and execution of physical education programmes are generally the responsibility of the public authorities, all explain and justify the intervention of public authority—politicians and officials, we are all responsible for the public funds invested in this respect.

But it is also necessary to guarantee the autonomy of what is often called in France the “*sports movement*” or the “*associative sector*”.

On the international level the States we represent have “*non-governmental organisations*” as interlocutors, the role of which is eminent. Whether they be the International Olympic Committee, the International Federations, the different councils or committees such as the International Council for Sport and Physical Education (ICSPE), each of these organisations must take into account the consequences, particularly financial consequences, that their decisions are likely to entail for States.

I only mention this point to stress the difficulties arising, to my mind, from the imperfection of the relations existing between the various public authorities and the different private organisations. How can these relations be improved without altering the rights of the first and the necessary independence of the second?

3. Physical Education and Sport in International Co-operation

The need for international co-operation is felt all the more since a huge effort of mutual understanding among individuals and nations is indispensable in today’s world in order to preserve peace.

Can sport contribute to this noble task? Certainly, for we know that it helps individuals and nations to come together as long as the sporting spirit, based on observance of the rule and fairness in behaviour, purges the competition of any residue of chauvinism.

How can this co-operation be organised? We must examine the question at this Conference. Already I can state that France is ready, in this field as in others, to submit its contribution to a co-operation based on the principle of unbiased exchange. This co-operation will no doubt go far beyond the limits of the exchanges of information to which we—profitably, I hope—are now going to proceed.

... I hope that our Conference, like a recent economic meeting which was also held in Paris, sees the birth of a new order of international sport.

P. M.