

The European NOCs

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Secretary General

Today we are publishing two proposals which were submitted to the General Assembly of ENOCs in Vaduz : one from the Austrian NOC and the other from the Czechoslovak NOC.

We should be interested to receive the views of National Olympic Committees from other continents.

Austrian proposal :

The increasingly contagious passivity of large crowds has caused the practice of sports to diminish. The existence of a type of alienation, which prevents our athletes from obtaining, by their example, the necessary attention, is revealed by this increased anonymity and passivity. There were half a million people at the last Winter Games in Innsbruck and three million in Montreal. Millions of television viewers also followed these events. From this we must conclude that there is a striking disparity between the athletes who commit their bodies and souls and those-for the most part only passive spectators-who watch them.

It also seems that competition sport is somewhat confined in a sort of ivory tower. For this reason the IOC thought it was time to establish a comparative link between competition sport and the democratisation of sport outside the fundamental programme and infrastructure of the Games.

In the first place, we think that certain competitions, such as special championships which enjoy great popularity in Scandinavia and Alpine countries, could be included in the Winter Games, which do not have as full a programme as the Summer Games. These are championships which do not have any financial repercussions, as the cost of such events can be covered by the entry fees. Moreover, should these winter sports events prove successful, they could subsequently inspire the creation of huge sports events which, prompted by the winter success, would be transferred to the summer events.

The preceding ideas are just the outline of a study which should be undertaken before, during and after the Games.

Czechoslovak proposal :

We consider that it is our duty, and in particular that of the ENOCs, to safeguard for future generations the memory of the Olympic Games, the noble stimulus of which was to create from moral and physical education a regular international competition between the best representatives of each nation. The Czechoslovak National Olympic Committee therefore proposes to create an artistic work, a monument which would express our gratitude to Olympic Greece, the cradle of the Olympic idea. This monument would be in the form of a figure, the dominant statue of the marathon runner. It would be erected in a suitable place at ancient Olympia. As an eternal commemoration, the names of all the marathon winners at the modern Olympic Games would be engraved on the monument's stone. The winners of this event who are still alive would receive a small copy of the work in question. A group of artists from two or three member nations could be charged with preparing the project, or the work could possibly be the subject of an international artistic contest. The models sent in could be displayed at an exhibition organised, perhaps, during the Olympic Games in Moscow. The Czechoslovak National Olympic Committee recommends the approval of this proposal. It also suggests that it be included in the ENOCs' activity plan for the years to come. In this respect the Czechoslovak NOC points out that Czechoslovak artists are willing to take part in this project, as they have already done in the past. In 1972 for example, the statue "I shall triumph" was presented to the host city of the Games of the XXth Olympiad and later placed inside the Olympic stadium at Munich.

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