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The modern Olympic ideal, embodied by the Olympic Games, has come a very long way. In the past, this small flame from Olympia had set the hearts aflame of those who dreamed of friendship through sport, of peace, of brotherhood arising from sporting competition.

The World Wars halted the Olympic celebrations, but they were unable to break, or tear apart, the chain of the Olympiads, which were taken up once more once the guns fell silent.

The Olympic Games began again with more verve and vigour than before, and with the participation greater numbers of more enthusiastic athletes, officials and sports administrators from every country.

Such an idea which has been revived in modern times cannot be extinguished. It is immortal, for it serves the dreams of young people of the world, and the interest of all peoples.

Political interference emanating from all points of the compass has been used trying, time and time again in an attempt to meddle in the affairs of Olympism and the Olympic Games. Despite this, the Games themselves have created a common barrier consisting of all the NOCs, IFs, and athletes who wish to see them take place in peace, with the participation of all those who wish to take part. They are joined in this wish by the millions of spectators who follow the Games through television, radio and newspapers.

The dynamic appeal of the Games, and the wish of the public to see them take place

without threat or hindrance, demands a daring initiative on the part of those who carry world-wide responsibility.

An international Convention, signed by governments, should guarantee the peaceful celebration of the Games, and the freedom to participate in them, in conformity with the Olympic Charter.

If one wishes to protect the rights of mankind, here are some of the rights which merit being so guaranteed.

- The said Convention would guarantee in particular :
- the “Olympic Charter” as it stands, and the supreme authority of the IOC within the framework of this Charter,
- the free choice of the IOC of the venue for the Olympic Games,
- sole jurisdiction of the NOCs as regard the decision to participate in the Olympic Games,
- the prohibition of interference or pressure from any government in affairs concerning the Olympic Games.

Who could take such an initiative ?

The IOC, with the support of the NOCs and the IFs.

This initiative would in all likelihood obtain the support of the forthcoming Olympic Congress.

The path to such a goal would doubtless be a long and difficult one, with many obstacles, but I am convinced that we can find men of international standing, leaders of various countries, who would take this path together with us, and who would be well rewarded at the end of it by having well served one of the causes of humanity.

I would underline that my intention is not to devise the necessary procedure to carry out the idea I have expressed.

If the idea of an international convention were to be accepted by the IOC, the most appropriate procedure would be required—perhaps through UNESCO ?

M.J.

