

Olympism in mourning

In memory of Johan Wilhelm Rangell 1894-1982



Johan Wilhelm Rangell, one-time Prime Minister of Finland, and an outstanding contributor to sports in Finland and around the world, died the 12th of March 1982, at the age of 87.

Mr. Rangell's life was filled with activities devoted to the sports world and at the same time he was extremely involved in banking and political careers. He was an Attorney at law in Helsinki, board member to many large companies and Secretary of the Central Committee for the Finnish Independence Movement before the 1917 election. He was Prime Minister of Finland from 1941 until 1943.

As a youth, Mr. Rangell held the Finnish triple jump record and was champion in his country for that event in 1912 and 1913. He was the President of the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games of 1940 which were eventually cancelled because of World War II. He became a member of the IOC in 1938 and in the same year joined the Finnish Olympic Committee (FOC). In 1951 he was awarded the Trophy of Finnish Sports in recognition of his contributions, and was a founding member of the Finnish Games Research Foundation. In 1961 he became President of the FOC for two years, and in 1967 became its first honorary member.

Mr. Rangell has been presented with numerous decorations of Finland, as well as several citations from countries all over the world. The International Olympic Committee extends its most sincere condolences to his family and to the people of Finland.



It is with great sadness that we have learned of the deaths of the following sports figures and defenders of the Olympic movement :

Sepp Bradl (AUT, age 64) first ski jumper to clear the 100 m, on the 15th March 1936 ; he was coach to the Austrian team from 1957 to 1972.

Emile Clemmé (BEL, age 80). Assistant Secretary General of the BIOC, and Chef de mission at four Olympic Games, from 1956 to 1968.

Heinz Dragunsky (NOR, age 61), Honorary member of the ISU.

Ossie Plaskitt (ZIM), for 28 years was Secretary General of his NOC.

Clarence Schmaltz, President of the Canadian Ice Hockey Association.

Red Smith (USA, age 76), one of the best-known sports commentators in the United States.

Wilhelm Viebig (FRG, age 82), captain of the German 3-day riding events team at the Olympic Games from 1952 through 1960.

Claus Willing (FRG), in charge of "accreditation and lodging" for those concerned during the XIth Olympic Congress.

The "Olympic Review" would like to address its condolences to the families and friends of these missed sports personalities.

Mr. Mario Vazquez-Rañá and family are greatly saddened by the loss of his mother. We offer them our most sincere condolences.