

A CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PHENOMENON

by **ANTONIN HIML**

The development of the movement "Sport for All" is an important social and cultural phenomenon of our times, with a valuable role parallel to the top international sports movement — Olympism. The "Sport for All" movement has spread from its original forms, surpassing expectations in both industrially advanced countries and in the third world, to become a highly beneficial and important movement for the development of humanity.

On the basis of the IOC recommendations and in view of the wishes of other international organizations engaged in Sport for All, it has been decided after the 1st Congress, held on the initiative of the "Deutscher Sportbund" (German Sports Federation), in Frankfurt am Main (FRG) in 1986, to organize such international congresses regularly under the auspices and with the contribution of the IOC, to enable the representatives and specialists of national sports organizations and bodies and international organisations to exchange experiences in all aspects of Sport for All activities.

The Czechoslovak Association of Physical Culture has been given the task of organizing the 2nd International Sport for All Congress which will be held in Prague from 16th to 20th May, 1988.

An Organizing Committee, presided by the Vice-President of the Czechoslovak Association of Physical Culture, Mr. Juraj Kniezo, has been set up to prepare the Congress.

Antonin Himl sent us, shortly before his death, this article presenting the 11nd International Sport for All Congress. We publish it in tribute to him.



Whereas at the 1st Congress in Frankfurt in 1986, the participants exchanged views and experiences on the basis of Sport for All, the Prague Congress is to follow this up by the question of how to expand it.

The motto of the Prague Congress is "World Solidarity for the Development of Sport for All". The introductory speech on this topic will be given by a top representative of the Czechoslovak Association of Physical Culture. Following an address by H.E. Juan Antonio Samaranch on the relationship of the IOC with Sport for All, the Congress will deal, in plenary sessions, with four main spheres :

1. Sport for All as a factor of cooperation, mutual understanding and assistance.
2. Experiences derived from the social and economic aspects of Sport for All.
3. Training of specialists and setting up programmes of Sport for All.
4. Ways of improving the exchange of information on Sport for All.

Each of these aspects is to be introduced by a speech summing up the main ideas and this is to be followed by a number of follow-up contributions and discussion by participants.

The Frankfurt Congress was attended by a relatively small number of countries. As the Congress was a success and countries take much interest in Sport for All problems, a large number have been invited to the Prague Congress. This is open to practically all countries developing Sport for All activities.

A BROAD FORUM

The IOC Sport for All Commission was informed in Lausanne on 17th November 1987, of the state of preparations for the Prague Congress, its aims and the selection of speakers. During the Prague Congress there will be a meeting of the IOC Commission. The Congress will provide an opportunity for H.E. Juan Antonio Samaranch to award the Olympic pins to the Czechoslovak Olympic medallists.

In the meantime, the Organizing Committee has selected a range of countries, the representatives of which have been asked to make speeches or follow-up contributions on the four main topics. The IOC invites contributions from the sports organisations and the National Olym-



Prague Cathedral.

pic Committees in order to enrich the programme of the Congress and to support the Organizing Committee in their endeavours to make the Second International Sport for All Congress a broad forum for the exchange of Sport for All experiences and an important step in the forward further development of this world-wide movement.

The IOC President will go to Prague for the 11nd International "Sport for All" Congress which will take place from 16th to 20th May 1988. A plenary session of the Czechoslovakian Olympic Academy, which celebrates the first anniversary of its foundation, will hold a joint assembly with the Czechoslovakian Artistic Unions.