

After 1940, Giorgio worked in the technical section of the National Tennis Federation. In 1951 he was appointed member of the IOC in Italy, joining Count Paolo Thaon di Revel, who had been a member since 1932. He participated for the first time in an IOC session in 1952 (for the Games in Oslo); since then he has attended a good 46 sessions (he is one of the most assiduous members) and 22 Olympic Games (both Winter and Summer).

At national level, he was President of the Italian Tennis Federation for four consecutive two-year periods. He has three times been President of the International Federation.

In his capacity as an IOC member, Giorgio De Stefani is a full member of the National Council and of the Executive body of the Italian NOC. The Blue Athletes of Italy, and other organizations of ex-athletes, have been honoured to have him as president of their groups. Despite holding so many offices, just tribute to his excellent qualities as an athlete and manager, he was able to exercise to the full what is probably the most important function — that of the IOC member. Appointed to the Executive Board for the period 1964-1968, Giorgio has always fulfilled his duties to the letter. The task of representing the high interests of the Olympic movement is for him an article of faith. He is endowed with clear diplomacy, constant equanimity and a freedom of judgement which are unrivalled. Not a day goes by but we see important international organizations having to struggle to do their work because of interference or prevarication on account of private or international interests. If the IOC has avoided such dangers it is precisely because it has been able to count on a whole group of people just like our "Giorgio". He has incredible faith in the Olympic ideal and in the task with which he is entrusted. With scrupulousness, Giorgio keeps records, documents and mementos which he has dutifully collected over the years. His faith he has drawn from the town of Olympia; and from Mount Olympus, beloved of the gods, he has inherited that Olympic calm which has always been present in everything he does.

D. M.

FRANCO CARRARO ELECTED MAYOR OF ROME



Mr Franco Carraro, member of the IOC in Italy and new mayor of Rome.

Mr Franco Carraro, IOC member in Italy since 1982, was elected mayor of Rome on 18th December last. Previously the Italian Minister for Tourism, Mr Carraro, the first socialist mayor of Rome, is the tenth person to hold the mayoral office in the Italian capital since 1946. His election ends a nine-month interim period during which the Eternal City had been led by a "temporary commissioner", following the resignation of the previous mayor.

"I shall seek to create a city which is human, modern, efficient and pleasant to live in", declared the mayor as he accepted this new responsibility.

This election comes at a time when the city of Rome has to face a number of challenges, particularly the difficulties resulting from a high traffic density and, in six months from now, the World Cup football matches taking place in the Italian capital. It is not insignificant that the candidature chosen was that of Franco Carraro - who is the head of the Organizing Committee.

A former national water-skiing champion, Franco Carraro, who has just celebrated his fiftieth birthday, has headed both the Italian football league and the Italian National Olympic Committee.