

and suspicion, it is not only remarkable, but very encouraging, that the cream of the youth of the world gathers for this great festival of sport once every four years, to compete wholeheartedly, not only under the letter of the Rules, but in their spirit, too.

Sport to-day seems to be the one great common denominator between the youth of the world. The International Olympic Committee have never lost sight of the aim that, not only are their Games to be a gigantic competition between all the best athletes of the world, but that, when these young people return to their homes, they should feel that they are mentally enriched by their mixing with the athletes of other countries and making common cause with them in competitions, and the friendships which I know from personal experience spring up. It is essential that this should be felt by all, whether successful or not, and they must return home inspired and uplifted by their participation in this great festival of sport, so that they, in turn, will spread this spirit far and wide in their own lands.

In 1948, in spite of the destruction of the war, Great Britain staged the XIVth Olympiad. This proved to be a gigantic undertaking, with a budget of expenses and receipts of about three-quarters of a million pounds. There were six thousand competitors and officials to be housed, and, owing to the housing shortage, they had to be accommodated in nearly thirty different centres. Over 300 000 vehicle miles were driven in the three weeks in transporting the competitors to and from the stadiums and training grounds. In spite of these difficulties, the Games were administratively a success, and the competitions were superb. To those of

us, however, who played a part in their organisation, our reward was that fellowship and camaraderie, which is the very foundation of true amateur sport, spread through all the competitors and spectators, and was, indeed, imparted to the many millions who eagerly followed the course of the Games, by radio, news papers and films.

This year, Helsinki is to be the host for an even greater festival of sport. An organisation of this magnitude obviously offers some tremendous problems, but our Finnish friends have grappled with them with that determination and efficiency which we would expect from them; and, so far as is humanly possible, I know that everything will be done there to ensure their smooth running and complete success.

In 1956, the Games move on to Melbourne, in Australia, and already plans are being made. As regards 1960, a decision as to the host country will not be reached by the International Olympic Committee for another year or two.

So it is that the great Olympic movement marches on, spurred by a gigantic army of voluntary supporters, who, by their very enthusiasm, ensure the sweep forward.

In this world, there are all too many who are prepared to look for reasons for tearing something down; but that does not lead to progress. Here is a movement building up something infinitely worth while, and I am therefore happy to have this opportunity of putting these few thoughts on paper, and asking those of you who have widely and deeply pondered about such matters to do what you can to help and support our great movement.

Mésentente en Allemagne

Ensuite des clauses contenues dans la « Convention de Lausanne » signée en mai 1951 par les représentants des deux comités olympiques allemands et la Commission exécutive du C. I. O., les deux comités allemands (de l'Est et de l'Ouest) se sont rencontrés une première fois à Hambourg et une seconde fois à Kassel. N'ayant trouvé aucun terrain d'entente il fut décidé qu'une troisième réunion aurait lieu à Berlin le 9 décembre dernier. Celle-ci ne put avoir lieu, le Comité olympique de la République démocratique allemande (de l'Est) ayant dénoncé la Convention de Lausanne et ayant formulé une nouvelle demande de reconnaissance auprès du C. I. O. A la veille de la session d'Oslo, les choses en sont là... malheureusement.

German Olympic Committee disagree

In accordance with certain clauses contained in the « Lausanne Convention », signed in May 1951 by the Representatives of both German Olympic Committees and the Execu-

tive Committee of the I. O. C. the two German Committees (East and West) met for the first time in Hamburg and on the second occasion in Kassel. As they were at loggerheads with each other and failed to reach a satisfactory understanding, they decided to hold a third meeting which was to take place in Berlin on December 9th of this month; unfortunately it was cancelled on account of the Olympic Committee of the German Democratic Republic (East) having denounced the Lausanne Convention. It made a new request of recognition to the International Olympic Committee. It is most unfortunate that this regrettable discrepancy should have occurred on the very eve of the Session of Oslo.

Information

Conformément aux droits qui lui ont été conférés lors de la dernière session de Vienne, la Commission exécutive du C.I.O. a reconnu le nouveau comité olympique d'Israël unifié. Israël recevra les invitations pour prendre part aux Jeux olympiques d'Oslo et d'Helsinki en 1952.