

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

BELGIUM

New Secretary General for the B.O.C.: Mr. Robert GODEFRIDI, President of the Belgian Federation of Rowing Clubs. He succeeds Mr. LUC SILANCE, who remains a member of the council. Mr. RENARD will occupy the new post of administrative director.

BULGARIA

Officials of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee for the period of the XXth Olympiad. *President:* General Vladimir STOYTCHEV (member of the I.O.C). *Vice-Presidents:* Latchezar AVRAMOV (Vice President of the Council of Ministers), Trendafil MARINSKI (President of the Bulgarian Union of Physical Culture and Sport). *Secretary General:* Professor Dr. Dragomir MATEEV.

The Bulgarian Olympic Committee now comprises 35 members, including the 1960 Greco-Roman Olympic Wrestling Champion (Middleweight) Dimitri DOBREV.

FRANCE

The Count Jean de Beaumont, re-elected President of the French Olympic Committee. At its general meeting, the F.O.C. unanimously re-elected the Count, member of the I.O.C. and retiring President, to be its President again for the coming Olympiad.

The new board is composed as follows: *President,* Jean de BEAUMONT, *Vice-Presidents:* Pierre FERRI and Alain DANET. The latter takes over the dual role of *Vice-President and Treasurer;* *Secretary General:* Claude COLLARD; *members:* Messrs. MARTEL, Andre SORET, Bertrand COLOMBE, Nelson PAILLOU, Bernard RESTOUT.



- Prague - Mexico - Prague on foot -

From left to right: Kvetoslava TARANTOVA, Zdenka OPATRNA, Jarmilla OTCHASKOVA, leader of the group, and Vera KOMARKOVA.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

They have returned, the four young women climbers whom we presented to you, you may remember, in No.3 of this Newsletter, when we welcomed them at the headquarters of the I.O.C. in Lausanne after they had walked through Austria and part of Switzerland.

Jarmilla OTCHASKOVA, 36 year old factory worker from Prague, leader of the group, and her companions Vera KOMARKOVA, 25 years old, a botanist, Kvetoslava TARANTOVA, 22 years old, a technician, and Zdenka OPATRNA, 21 years old, a worker, had decided to walk to Mexico to see the Games of the XIXth Olympiad. Having an idea is nothing, carrying it out is what counts. Well now they have achieved their aim, since they arrived in time for the Games, and took advantage of their trip to climb a number of peaks in Mexico. One year after leaving their homeland, they are home again, richer by all the impressions and wonderful experiences gained while walking nearly 5,000 miles. And in the meantime . . . Vera has become Mrs. Esquinoza Aquillar !

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

In honour of the revival of the modern Olympic Games, the German (D.R.) Olympic Committee has for years now held an "Olympic Day" in June, with a swimming race to which foreign teams are invited. The schools invite Olympic athletes, competitors and champions to attend the school celebrations. "In this way our country shows the love and gratitude it bears towards Pierre de COUBERTIN and his immortal work of such importance devoted to the youth of the world and the cause of peace" writes Dr. Heinz SCHOBEL, member of the I.O.C. and President of the National Olympic Committee.

GREECE

* Mr. Epaminondas PETRALIAS, secretary general of the Greek Olympic Committee, has sent us two items of general interest:

Celebration of Olympic Day: April 6th, 1969 to commemorate April 6th, 1896, official opening day of the Games of the 1st Olympiad.

In the all-white marble Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, where the First Olympic Games were held in 1896, 50,000 Athenian spectators applauded the winner of the 8th International Classical Marathon, the Englishman Bill ADCOCKS.

With his astonishing time of 2 h. 11' 07.2", the winner set a new record for this distance of 42,195 metres. Spyros LOUIS, the winner of the Marathon of the First Olympic Games in Athens had taken 2 h. 58' 50" to cover the distance of 40,000 metres. Since then, the length of the road leading to the Tomb of the Warriors slain at Marathon has been added to the distance.

The Classical Marathon was part of the Olympic Day celebrations. A large number of foreign runners took part in the Marathon including the first five in the Mexico Olympics marathon.

The programme of the celebrations in the Panathenaic Stadium also included a parade of athletes of all Olympic Sports and an inspiring speech on the aims of the Olympic Movement, as well as various athletics events, basketball, volley-ball, fencing, wrestling, boxing and weightlifting matches.

The festival was brought to a close with national dances by groups dressed in the traditional costumes of the various provinces, and the Olympic flag was lowered to the tune of the Olympic Anthem.

Olympic Day was celebrated all over Greece on the same date.

* *An International Course of Sports Medicine at the I.O.A.*
From July 7th to 20th, 1969, the Greek Association of Sports Medicine, in cooperation with the International Olympic Academy, is organizing an International Course of Sports Medicine for the International Federation of Sports Medicine (I.F.S.M.) in Athens and at Olympia, in the premises of the International Olympic Academy. Eminent professors will lecture on and discuss various fundamental and topical subjects concerning Sports Medicine. At the end of this course, those taking part will be awarded the official title of "Fellow" of the I.F.S.M.

For further information, please write to the Greek Association of Sports Medicine, Avenue Panepistimiou 25 (S.E.G.A.S.) Athens 132, Greece.

HAITI

Maître Clovis N. BONHOMME has died. The Haitian Olympic Committee has just informed us of the death of its secretary general, Maître Clovis N. BONHOMME who is greatly mourned by all his fellow members.

ITALY

* *An Olympic Training Centre for the Modern Pentathlon in Rome.* On April 10th last, the *Olympic Training Centre for the Modern Pentathlon* was officially opened near Rome (Montelibretti). This centre was built by the Italian National Olympic Committee on a site provided by the military department.

This centre, which cost 185 million lire, forms part of the programme of direct projects for sports facilities, pilot installations, etc to be provided for training with a view to future Olympics.

Designed and built by the engineers Paolo Garroni and Paolo Teresi, this complex will enable athletes preparing for the pentathlon to train for the five sports of this speciality all in the same place. The Centre is provided with a dormitory for 24, or even 48 athletes (by using bunk-beds) - a covered 25m. x 10m. swimming pool - a fencing hall - a 25m. pistol shooting-range. For riding, the athletes can use the nearby facilities of the Pre-Olympic Military Equestrian, Centre equipped with stables and an open-air manege.

During the summer the centre will also accommodate students from the "Junior" Sports Training Centre for the Modern Pentathlon.

In addition, the Centre will also be open to athletes of other countries, within the framework of exchange of experience according to the principles of solidarity and reciprocal assistance between National Olympic Committees of the whole world.

* *The fencer SAVERIO RAGNO, Olympic champion in the epee team event in 1936, has just died at Sacile (Pordenone) at the age of 68. One of the great figures of the golden age of Italian fencing, he coached his daughter Antonella who, under her father's guidance, became in her turn excellent with the foil, coming 3rd both in Rome and at the Tokyo Olympic Games.*

JAPAN

21st Olympic Day on June 23rd next. In Japan, Olympic Day has been celebrated every year since the Games of the XIVth Olympiad, which were held in London in 1948. This Day helps spread the Olympic ideal in schools.

NORWAY

Mr. Arne B. MOLLEN, President of the Norwegian Olympic Committee. Previously Secretary General, Mr. Arne B. MOLLEN now succeeds Mr. Jorgen JAHRE for the next four years, Mr. Joh. Crh. SCHØNHEYDER was elected Vice-President - Secretary General.

SPAIN

* *The Spanish Olympic Committee is stepping up measures to ensure that no abusive use is made of the Olympic emblems and name, in accordance with the instructions issued by the I.O.C. and contained in the Physical Education Law and the Regulations of the Spanish N.O.C.*

* A "Spanish Olympic Committee" Prize for a horse race counting for the Amateur Riders World Championships has just been created.

SWEDEN

At the annual meeting of the Swedish Olympic Committee on February 6th last, the following officials were elected:

President: H.R.H. Prince BERTIL. *Vice-President:* Mr. Gunnar ERICSSON, member of the I.O.C., *Secretary General:* Mr. BP BENGTON, *Treasurer:* Mr. Gunnar HEDBERG, *President of the Executive Committee:* Mr. Sven THOFELT. Mr. Sigge BERGMANN is in charge of the Winter Olympic Games, Mr. Matts CARLGREN of the Olympic Games.

Mr. Bo EKELUND, honorary member of the I.O.C. and Mr. Gustaf DYRSSEN, member of the I.O.C. for Sweden are also members of the Swedish Olympic Committee.

SWITZERLAND

The Swiss Olympic Committee will be celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the revival of the Olympic Games by organizing two "Olympic Days" in Lausanne on July 4th and 5th. The programme includes a commemorative ceremony at the tomb of Baron Pierre de COUBERTIN, discussions on the structure of the Olympic Games, on the status of the Olympic athlete, a meeting with representatives of the press, radio and television, and a reception at the I.O.C. headquarters at Vidy.

"On the whole, the year 1968 was a good year for the Olympic Movement in Switzerland. The Mexico Games, especially as a result of the tremendous part played by the mass media, showed the great interest aroused by Olympism and its growing influence throughout the world. We must therefore make full use of the potential and place it at the service of sport in our country. We hope in this way to make a modest contribution to national sport" writes Mr. Raymond GAFNER, President, and Mr. Jean WEYMANN, secretary General of the Swiss Olympic Committee in conclusion to the report of activities of the S.O.C. for the period from April 14th, 1968 to March 15th, 1969.

TURKEY

New address of the Turkish Olympic Committee :

P.O.B. 325,
Karaköy,
Istanbul

Telegrams : OLIMPTURK

Telephone : 49.17.12

The address of Mr. Suat ERLER, member of the I.O.C. and Secretary General of the Turkish National Olympic Committee:

P.O.B. 155,
Karaköy,
Istanbul

Telephone : 47.34.67

UNITED STATES

Athletes to take part in the discussions of the United States Olympic Committee. A special consultative committee consisting of 35 former members of the United States Olympic teams including Al OERTER, Olympic Discus Champion four times running since 1956, and the swimmer Don SCHOLLANDER, winner of four gold medals at Tokyo, has been set up by the American Olympic Committee to take part in the discussions and decisions concerning the "country's Olympic interests".

MALI - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - JAPAN.

- We have just received details of the new members of the National Olympic Committees of Mali, the United States and Japan.

We congratulate :

- Doctor Henri CORENTHIN, Minister of Transport telecommunication and Tourism in his country, until now Secretary General of the Mali Olympic Committee, on his election to the presidency of this body.

- Mr. Franklin L. ORTH, elected, for the period of the XXth Olympiad, as President of the U.S.O.C.

- Mr. Hanji AOKI, new President of the Japanese Olympic Committee.

We shall not fail to publish the complete lists resulting from these elections in our next issue.