

Multiplicity of Games

Recently, in its editorial, the sport's paper *L'Équipe* (Paris) became anxious about the multiplicity of all kind of Games which are organized throughout the World. It was, in fact, concerning the blame cast on racism for certain would Games which were reserved for one sole race or religion. Recent examples being the Pan Arabian, or the Macchabian Games. Other gatherings may also have a political character leading to unpleasant meetings. Could this not have

been the case at the Abidjan Games where, although there was no racial prejudice, since Black and White met face to face, events were reserved for the African countries who are friend of France. May it not feared that they might create similar Games, and also politically rivalled Games. It is in that way that our great colleague expresses itself, while becoming disturbed about the increase of these racial, religious or ideological sporting events.

Finally our colleague believes that the International Olympic Committee (who can refuse its patronage, but not prohibit the Games) should seriously recall that the only Games that it can approve, in accordance with the International Federations, are those of a purely *geographical* nature. Without wanting to make a 'solemn' declaration here, we will quote the only geographical Games to which the International Olympic Committee gives its patronage, when this is requested of it. The Central American and Carribean Games, the Pan-american Games, the Asian Games and the Mediterranean Games. During a recent meeting the International Olympic Committee reached the decision that it would no longer accord its patronage to other Games which may be organized; because of their multiplicity and also, in part, for the reasons put forward by *L'Equipe*. Previously the patronage had also been given to events which have not taken place again since such as the Far Eastern Games and the Bolivarian Games. It is true that the Baron de Coubertin had encouraged the rise of such organizations which he envisaged somehow as a preparation or a complement of the Olympic Games, which should remain in the fore. But the multiplicity of the said regional Games besides those which we have just mentioned do not retain their meaning anymore; they are too expensive for those who take part and

whose money is already largely taken to contribute towards their participation in the Olympic Games. Recently the organizers foresaw the birth of the Pacific Games reserved for countries bordering on the Ocean of the same name. They should have taken place at Honolulu, where they did die before they were born.

Last summer the following Games are said to have taken place successfully. The Vith Macchabian Games at Tel-Aviv, the Universiade (University Games) at Sofia, which moreover is an excellent thing, and the Pan Arabian Games at Casablanca, which alas did nothing to create a fraternal bond between the Maroccans and the Egyptians, neighbours which nothing should separate. Besides these, the Balkan Games at Belgrade which united the athletes of five Balkan nations.

The Mediterranean Games, organized for the first time in 1951 in Alexandria, under the impulsion of H. E. Mohammed Taher (a member of the International Olympic Committee) who was their founder and first President, were realized as the result of a good idea. They are now fairly endangered to-day by the racial, political and, alas, religious opposition among the countries bordering this sea, which sport, rising above all religions and causes for arguments, should bring together.