

Around the National Olympic Committees

Declaration by 18 European NOCs

In the light of current international events having a profound effect on the international Olympic movement, representatives of 18 European NOCs met in Rome on 3rd May in order to find means of ensuring full European participation at the forthcoming Games of the XXIInd Olympiad in Moscow. At the close of their meeting, the following statement was issued :

The representatives of 18 National Olympic Committees (FRG, AND, AUT, BEL, DEN, FIN, FRA, GBR, GRE, IRL, ITA, LIE, LUX, MLT, HOL, SMR, SUI, TUR), meeting in Rome on 3 May 1980, follow up the declarations made at Frankfurt and Brussels.

THEY STRESS that their mission is to defend the Olympic movement whose principles are fraternity and universal friendship ; that the Olympic Games are the expression of that movement, and that it is their duty to permit participation in the Games by their athletes who have prepared over a long time for them ; that this participation is even more important in a period of tension and international conflicts expressing as it does, over and above frictions between nations and attempts at domination, a hope of mutual understanding for future generations ; and that any foregoing of the 1980 Olympic Games, besides failing to provide a solution to the present conflicts, would have disastrous consequences on international sport as a result of the inevitable actions which would ensue.

THEY UNDERLINE that participation cannot in any way be taken to imply acceptance of any ideology or political behaviour.

THEY APPEAL therefore to the Olympic Committees of all the countries in the world to take part in the Olympic Games in accordance with the above principles.

The meeting unanimously felt that it was essential to formulate certain criteria under which

those NOCs which had not yet formally accepted the invitation to attend the Olympic Games in Moscow could participate.

It was recognised that the ultimate acceptance of the invitation and the criteria was essentially the prerogative of each NOC ; but there was general agreement that they (the criteria) afforded a sound basis for a recommendation that the invitation be accepted.

1. NOCs will not participate as a contingent in the opening ceremony. A flag-bearer only will follow the name-board.
2. At all times and on all occasions the flag, under Rule 24f), of the participating delegations will be the Olympic flag.
3. The anthem will be the official Olympic anthem (as abbreviated).
4. In all ceremonies : opening, victory, closing, the anthem will be the official Olympic anthem, as abbreviated, and the flag the official Olympic flag.
5. The sports outfits or informal dress should not display anything other than the badges with the names of the NOCs.
6. The IOC will ensure that, in the course of the ceremonies, no formal speeches will have a political content.
7. The NOCs will confine their activities to purely sporting events.
8. The NOCs will not participate in the Youth Camp organised in connection with the Olympic Games.

In conclusion, after 1980, the NOCs can no longer accept, either for the athletes or the Olympic movement, a continuation of the difficulties which we are experiencing at the present time.

Consequently they consider it of paramount importance that the whole of the Olympic movement instigates an immediate examination, with a view to changing the basic concept of the Olympic Games.

These changes should be designed to eliminate political pressures and all types of exploitation and give to the Olympic movement a new impetus and the necessary authority for its survival.