INFORMATION LETTER

OF

THE INTERNATIONAL PIERRE DE COUBERTIN COMMITTEE

1/97

Communication by Geoffroy de NAVACELLE de COUBERTIN
Président d'honneur du CIPC
Lausanne, 17th November 1995

THE CEREMONY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES ACCORDING TO PIERRE DE COUBERTIN

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I propose an escape through time by reminding you of some of the quotations of Pierre de Coubertin which in my opinion should serve as a permanent reference. These are equally valid yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Throughout the programme in Barcelona, it was necessary to make numerous references to Pierre de Coubertin for whom, **«the Olympic Protocol is in essence purely pedagogical»** (1).

It is clear that it is the pedagogue who is speaking,

«The question of the ceremony is the most important to resolve» he says «The Olympiad should above all differ from a mere series of world championships, it should include solemnity and ceremony» (2).

THE FOUR-YEARLY FESTIVAL OF UNIVERSAL YOUTH

As we are dealing with, in his words: **«The four-yearly festival of the youth of the world»** (3) (and not a «spectacle», which was a suspect term for Coubertin).

My wish is to put forward a kind of conclusion, the essence of the thoughts of the founder of modern Olympism on this important subject, begging forgiveness for any possible repetitions with those who have preceded me in this symposium. If we reread his comments the day after the Antwerp Games and those of Los Angeles, one appreciates that the Opening Ceremonies with, and I quote, **«All the symbolic beauty of the parade, the ancient formula of the flag and flame permanently crowning the Stadium, the flight of the doves»**, I would say that these ceremonies are a forerunner to those which are familiar to us nowadays, and evoke in the same way, the closing ceremony when, **«The Olympic flag is slowly lowered to the sound of the first notes of a cantata interpreted by 1,200 singers and musicians»** (4).

I believe that today, we are in line with Coubertin's ambitions.

A NEW AND REVOLUTIONARY ELEMENT: TELEVISION

Technology, and in particular the birth of television, has changed the dimensions to a

degree which even the greatest visionary could not have imagined. Now it is not only the crowd in the stadium which follows the Games, but also the millions of spectators world-wide who are not physically in attendance. But this involves the risk of allowing the demands of programming to control the evolution of the events, with the serious consequences this has on the form and fitness of the athletes, for whom the Games were designed and not the opposite.

THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC

It is a fact and I quote, **«modern crowds are less and less chivalrous»** and **«they have to be re-educated. They have to be taught to appreciate a beautiful sporting occasion where nationalist discourtesies which give a sense of semi-barbarism are out of place»** (5). This dates from 1928! For this reason it has given me great pleasure to see that the International Committee for Fair Play last year adopted my suggestion to award the «Pierre de Coubertin» Trophy to the nation of Norway for its exemplary behaviour during the Lillehammer Games.

CULTURE AND ART - SIMULTANEOUSNESS

In order that the «festival» of youth be beautiful, Pierre de Coubertin, **«I think that there is a reason to restore of the renewed Olympics a religious sentiment which is transformed and enlarged by internationalism and democracy. All the cultural forms which make up the ceremony of the modern Games come from here»** (6).

Thus, the festival should be cultural as, according to Coubertin, **«Today's crowds are incapable of associating the joy of Art in a different way. The beautiful music makes them vibrate, but the fact that the sounds come from the centre of noble architecture leaves them unmoved.»** (7). Fortunately, the evolution of our times permits us to say that this is not now the case. On the contrary, it seems to support Coubertin's wish, which was **«to prepare the resounding collaboration of Art and Literature with the restored Olympics»** (8) **«It is necessary that the spectator enters into the harmonious circle»** (9).

He praised **«The compulsory principle of simultaneousness. The effect produced by thousands of voices saluting the end of an athletic effort, or welcoming the entrance of a procession, or the proclamation of a victor. However, the singers (in Stockholm) for example, did not appear until the athletes had gone!» «Concerts are organised, what is Olympic about these concerts?»** (10).

We can answer with pleasure that during the Opening Ceremony in the Games of today one can hear, **«the incomparable notes,»** according to Coubertin, **«of the finale of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, sung by the massed choirs, the most powerful. Through their harmonies», he says «to me they seem to communicate with the Divine»** (11).

TECHNIQUES FOR SETTING OUT THE WORK

«Sport should be envisaged as a producer of art and as an occasion of art» (12). Coubertin also says, as I remember, that sport is particularly blessed, both in a cultural and artistic sense.

Also, his texts are countless and always make passionate reading as is the case of his essay on «Ruskinianisme sportif». The variety of the subjects dealt with is endless. For example, flags trophies, grandstands, porticos, awnings, the harmony of sounds, gestures and attitudes, processions, choreography, choirs, the conception and construction of stadiums, etc. (14).

CULTURAL MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOST COUNTRIES

On the theme of culture, Coubertin wanted «Mobile» Games, which in his opinion revealed, **«The spirit of each nation, their way of organising the festival, of practising physical exercise,»** added to, **«that which distinguishes our Modern Olympics, based on absolute internationalism, is the effort made by the successive nations who are called to organise them.»** On the subject of the participants, **«They have the moral obligation to make the most of the occasion and acquire knowledge of the country which at the time is their host»** (14).

LITURGY - RULES OF PROTOCOL

We pass from the festive side to what I call the «liturgical» side, and we reread Coubertin, **«Olympism is the spiritual state which comes from a double cult: endeavour and eurythmics»** (15). It is necessary to codify this cult and respect the rules. So it was, that as the Olympics were about to arrive, the principal rules of protocol were constituted. These ended - «liturgy» the same essence of the Ceremony of the Games as is written in the Olympic Charter. Pierre de Coubertin is the craftsman. The flag, the Olympic Oath, the protocol, the flame, is him!

In 1990, a slip up caused the omission of the mention of Pierre de Coubertin in the ritual speech pronounced by the President of the International Olympic Committee when he invited the Head of State to proclaim the Games open. Simple forgetfulness? Ungratefulness? I have every hope that this omission will be amended at the Atlanta Games and that the whole world will know that this event exists thanks to its one restorer. Without doubt, this question has been examined during the Symposium and the solutions proposed to the International Olympic Committee that the new Charter contains the necessary rectification. **«The presence of Sovereigns or Heads of State who have pronounced the sacred words is not sufficient to give the amplitude that these ceremonies deserve.»** Coubertin also says (16).

LOYALTY AND THE OLYMPIC OATH

He adds **«We have to fight with all our strength to maintain Modern Athletics in all its purity and loyalty. Among the best ways of doing this is, I believe, the inclusion of the Oath.»** (17). Because, **«the true religion of the ancient athlete did not only consist of a sacrifice before the Altar of Zeus. This was not only a traditional gesture. It consisted of swearing an oath of loyalty and disinterest and, above all to endeavour to respect it strictly»** (18).

Finally, we must retain the idea that the aim of the Olympic Games is **«the glorification of the athlete»** in the way that Coubertin wished. As a consequence, the ceremony of the Games and the artistic and cultural manifestations which accompany them should be impregnated with the moment when this oath is sworn by the athlete of which Pierre de Coubertin said in 1931 **«read this famous oath of which I am the happy and proud father! I ask only one thing from this oath: Sporting Loyalty. It is the Spirit of sport which interest me!».**

Thank you.

NOTES

1) The pedagogic value of the Olympic Ceremony in «Bulletin of the International Bureau of Sports Pedagogy» - 1931.
2) A Modern Olympics. Chapter VI - The Ceremonies in «Olympic Revue».
3) «Bulletin of the International of Sports Pedagogy» nº 9 - 1933.
4) Ditto
5) In «La Revue Sportive Illustrée» - 1928.
6) The Philosophical Bases of Modern Olympism in «Le sport Suisse» - 1935.
7) Speech on the opening of the Consultative Conference of Art, Literature and Sport 1906 in «Anthology» - 1933.
8) Ditto in: «A twenty- one year campaign» - 1909.
9) Essay on Ruskinianisme Sportif, in «Olympic Review» - 1911.
10) In: «Olympic Revue» - 1912.
11) The Philosophical bases of the Modern Olympism, in «Le Sport Suisse» - 1935.
12) Sport's Pedagogy - 1922.
13) Essay on Ruskinianisme Sportif, in «Olympic Review» - 1911.
14) In: «Olympic Revue» - 1912.
15) Olympic letters, in «Gazette de Lausana» - 1918.
16) A modern Olympics in: «Olympic Revue» - 1910.
17) The Role of the Olympic Games, in: «Revue des Sports de Bruxelles» - 1920.
18) A letter to Charles Simon, in: «Olympic Revue» - 1906.

General Reference: Selected Texts of Pierre de Coubertin
3 volumes, published by the International Olympic Committee
Professor Dr. Norbert MÜLLER.

COUBERTIN AND ROWING

By Professor Norbert Müller, holder of the chair of sports history at the University of Mainz (Germany) and vice-president of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee.

For the world of sport, the French Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937) has a place in history as the founder of the modern Olympic Games. However, his pedagogical objectives in the realms of sports, expounded throughout his very active life in twenty books and about 1200 articles, have remained unknown or have been missing for most of the time.

As we become aware by reading his countless texts, Rowing holds a special place for Coubertin. Other than rowing, Coubertin was passionate about fencing, boxing, equestrian sports and football. But as he rowed himself, he showed particular pedagogical interest in this sport. The virile effort, the harmony in the rhythm of the strokes, the victory in overcoming the natural obstacle represented by the distance with the adherence of nature, formed his opinion. In an article written in 1922, under the title «Sport and Intelligence», Coubertin even stated that rowing was the «ideal discipline». From his childhood, he had a canoe (Tam Tam) and he had practised this sport from a young age in the neighbouring waters of the family home in Mirville, In Normandy. In Paris, he often took part in the boat trips on the Seine. The Outrigger was introduced during his youth and this innovation provided rowing with its definitive sporting character. He was no more than twenty when he moved to introduce this sport, of English origin, in French schools.

From 1887, he showed special interest in the propagation of rowing and the creation of School Athletic Associations. In his memories (1931), he mentions, not without pride, the construction of a boathouse on the Ile des Loupes, the victories obtained by his rowing pupils in the regatta in Andrésy, and the organisation of regattas by his pupils. To relaunch rowing in France, Coubertin became the spokesman for French rowers and praised their participation in the traditional English regattas. For him, it was important to internationalise this sport in order to activate its development in his own country. These projects are closely linked to the idea of the renovation of the Olympic Games which he expressed for the first time in 1892.

With the support of the French ambassador, Coubertin went to London in 1891 and 1892 to negotiate successfully with the Amateur Rowing Association. These negotiations resulted in the participation of the first French rower in the Henley regatta where victory was obtained in one event. It was there that Coubertin became acquainted with the Henley Regatta Committee, and he was inspired to use their «self-recruiting-body system» for the IOC which he had recently formed.

The strictness of the Statutes of the English Rowing Federation and the different English regatta Committees made him decide to call an International Congress in the Sorbonne in 1894, as he was General Secretary of the Union of French Societies of

Athletic Sport (U.S.F.S.A). The principle objective was the evolution of a statute of the amateur, recognised throughout the world, so as to open, once and for all, the road to international sporting events. At this same congress, it was decided to re-establish the Olympic Games for the first time in Athens in 1896. Greatly surprised by Coubertin's proposal, the delegates gave him their agreement. Naturally, rowing figured highly in the provisional programme of the Olympic Games which was drawn up by the Paris congress. Unfortunately, the first Olympic rowing events, planned for Easter 1896, were cancelled due to bad weather and insufficient international participation.

Coubertin's passion for rowing lasted all his life, both in the practice of this sport in Paris and later on Lake Léman, near Lausanne, and in the publication of his reflections on the value of rowing. Among the numerous texts by Coubertin on the value of rowing one must mention the following three:

- In an article published in 1908, he refers to the causes of the stagnation in rowing around 1900 which he puts down to the severity of the English Statutes on Amateurism and the high cost of organisation. In order to overcome this he proposes close collaboration between oarsmen both nationally and internationally.

- In 1918 he summoned the youth of the Canton of Vaud, his elected country since 1916, to take full advantage of the ideal conditions which Lake Léman offers rowing addicts.

- In the booklet «Rowing cures», in 1920 Coubertin describes the value of rowing on the state of health and moreover its pedagogic value. «A rowing cure» is highly recommended for arthritis, and the exhaustion caused by modern living.

On various occasions, Coubertin referred to rowing in imposing contexts, highlighting its pedagogic value in the global education of young people. Coubertin was a passionate pedagogue and while some of his ideas may nowadays seem over enthusiastic he never ceased to give ideas on the development of this sport. Coubertin himself was the best example of rowing being the sport of all age: there is a photograph showing him rowing a few weeks before his death.

INFORMATIONS:

AUSTRIA

At the meeting of CIPC in December 1996 IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch in his address indicated that in countries with an active Olympic Academy but without a national Committee Pierre de Coubertin the NOA might realize the intentions of the other and vice versa. Though in the following discussion the board members of CIPC pointed out that the scope of CIPC is based on a larger concept recognizing Coubertin in his pedagogical, social and humanistic intentions, the opinion of the IOC President is true for Austria.

We have a very active NOA but so far there is no national CPC. However close contact to CIPC is guaranteed as the President of AOA is also member of CIPC.

Some of the activities of the past year - a year of great importance for the Olympic family all over the world with the centenary of modern Olympic Games - might be listed up as follows: The most important project reaching even into very small communities was called «Olympic days in primary schools». Aware of the fact that olympic education should start as early as possible this activity was conceived for pupils of the age from 6 to 10. For this purpose working booklets were handed on for each class in order to motivate teachers to integrate olympic topics into their classroom work. Schools were also invited to hand in documents of respective projects, More than 900 classes took part in the project involving teachers, pupils, parents and communities in educational projects and school festivals in olympic spirit. A documentation of the various examples has been worked out and sent to all participating schools.

The Austrian Olympic Academy each year organizes a seminar for its members. In May 1996 the fifteenth seminar was staged at Lausanne where the forty participants payed a visit to the headquarters of IOC and later enjoyed the very professional guidance through the wonderful New Olympic Museum.

Ever since 1991 in odd years the Austrian Olympic Committee offers an Olympic Award (ATS 20'000) for the best scientific paper on Olympism approved by the respective university in the past two years. The next Olympic Prize will be awarded at the occasion of the Olympic Seminar in May 1997.

In October 1996 Prof. Ingomar Weiler from the University of Graz organized a symposium on «Olympia - Sports and Spectacle. The Ancient Olympic Games and their Reception in Modern Olympism». 40 scientists mostly historians an sports scientists offered very interesting lectures about highlights of their work on Olympism. Among them also Prof. Norbert Müller from Mainz with his contribution on «Coubertin and Antiquity».

Dr. Hermann Andrecs
President of the Austrian Olympic Academy

BOLIVIA

From 27th January to 3rd February; a course was held in the Hotel Paris which dealt with the life and work of Pierre de Coubertin. During this course the President of the Bolivian Pierre de Coubertin Committee, Mr Germán Peters, gave a speech titled «Pierre de Coubertin and Fair Play».

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

George Hirthler, president of the American Pierre de Coubertin Committee was named «Chevalier des Arts et des lettres» for his work during the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

FRANCE

The French Committee P. de C. in 1996

The doyen of the Coubertin Committees was very active during this Olympic year which has just finished.

The readers of this informative letter have already been informed of our double project of a «Prestigious Brochure», an artistically presented résumé of Coubertianism and the Olympic events and at the same time the publication in English of «Le Vrai Coubertin» by Jean Durry under the title of «Pierre de Coubertin the Visionary» with a preface by the President, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

These works, which have been placed in the «Club France» in Atlanta had great impact on the public at whom they were aimed: directors and leading athletes.

We do not have the means of measuring the impact of this propaganda on «True Olympism». That is to say that which is outside any adverse or commercial influences. Is this not our common ideal? As far as France is concerned our Committee has become associated with the CNOSF and has made every effort to take part in all Educational and Sporting events and to spread the «good word», or in other words - remember the thoughts of Pierre de Coubertin. In a more practical sense, we have tried to make a census of the «Coubertin sites»: streets, squares, school play areas, stadiums, gymnasiums, swimming pools, etc. in order to pressure the local councils into placing the standard plaque with the name of Coubertin in remembrance of his date of birth and death, and of his work, at least his most universally renowned, the restoring of the Olympic Games. More than 200 «sites» have been located…

In an aim to reinforce the bonds with its followers, the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee, will from now on publish a quarterly newspaper **«La Gazette Coubertinienne»**, and to reward the most efficient disciples of our great humanist we have created a specific, original medal whose first beneficiaries have naturally been our Presidents, Juan Antonio Samaranch and Conrado Durántez.

The work during 1996 has, of course, been carried out with the close collaboration of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee and its General Secretary.

Jean Rodenfuser
General Secretary

FRENCH PIERRE DE COUBERTIN COMMITTEE AND THE FUTURE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The French Pierre de Coubertin Committee has been very worried by the flagrant derivations of the Olympic Games and the growing intervention within its organisation by

elements outside sport. This was clear for everyone to see in Atlanta and was the subject of a severe reprimand by the President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, who decided to mobilise opinion for a reformation, or at least, the stricter application of the Olympic Charter to combat the interfering, commercial, fair-like atmosphere which surrounded the events and the opening and closing ceremonies.

On the other hand it was clear to everyone that the anarchic and technically debatable multiplication of the events maintained, requires a revision of a programme subjected to law of commercial spectacle.

The programme, which is unwieldy due to the fact that it embraces the developement of sport all over the world, causes more and more arduous problems as it deals at the same time with the essential principles of unity of place and the planetary diversification of the host cities. Several original solutions are envisaged but the essential thing is to conserve the humanistic and universal character of the Games. Is it not one in which young people are systematically formed in the School System and outside of it in the knowledge and understanding of the Spirit of Olympism? Olympism is lived daily and not only once every four years. All sports for all, respecting human dignity!

It is in these subjects that the French Pierre de Coubertin Committee, will lay out its suggestions at a press conference.

GREAT BRITAIN

I enclose resume's of the three papers which I presented as follows during my Japan visit:

A. University of Miyazaki «International Understanding and Solidarity Through Sport»;
B. «Philip Noel-Baker, Hiroshima and Olympism»;
C. «Olympic Movement - history - issues - perspective for Nagano».

This was a privately funded visit spearheaded by the University of Meiji. There were 200 participants in Miyazaki; four hundred in Hiroshima; 50 in Tokyo. The Tokyo event was a smaller, high level, symposium at which I, Mr. Igaya the IOC Executive Board member, and Prince Takeda, Nagano Olympic Committee member, presented papers.

In my papers I made a special point of highlighting Coubertin's thoughts on «trusteeship», «enobling», peace, education, and the arts.
CIPC already has one member in Japan: Professor Shimuzu, Professor of French language and sport in Kobe University. There is now the beginnings of a network of Coubertin initiatives presided over by Shimuzu with Professor Terashima of Meiji University as secretary, and professor Murikawa, Nittaidai (Japan University of Physical Education in Tokyo) as Treasurer.

In Miyazaki province the town of Ada has agreed to turn its supporters club for Take Tsuchiya (9th in the equestrian 3 day event in Atlanta), into the «Coubertin Club». In Hiroshima district there is the relief «Man of Sport-Man of Peace» dedicated to Nobel Laureate and Olympian, Philip Noel-Baker. Noel-Baker was a disciple of Coubertin.

At the Wakunaga Garden, near Hiroshima, I planted a tree dedicated to the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee.

The Nagano Winter Olympic Games people took note of the significance of Coubertin and I am expecting them to seek advice on a suitable event to honour our work in 1998.

Don W.I. Anthony
Member of the Pierre de Coubertin Board

GRECE

HELLENIC COMMITTEE PIERRE DE COUBERTIN 1997

The Hellenic Committee Pierre de Coubertin in order to honor the Founder of the Modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin, with the complition of 60 years since his death (1937-1997), decided the year 1997 to be a year in **Memory of Pierre de Coubertin.** For that purpose it has programmed:

1) The edition of the First Book in Greek about the Pierre de Coubertin by the President of the Committee Dr. Nikolaos Vassiliadis, titled **«Travel in Greece»** with prologue of the I.O.C. President H. A. Samaranch and the International Olympic Academy President and I.O.C. Pierre de Coubertin's Commission President mr. Nikolaos Filaretos. **The book refers to Pierre de Coubertin's first visit in Greece in the year 1894.**

2) **A tribute to Pierre de Coubertin** at the annuel meeting of the International Olympic Academy in ancient Olympia.

3) **The name of Pierre de Coubertin to be given to a road in the city of Nafpactos,** by the Mayor of the City and Honorary member of the Hellenic Committee Pierre de Coubertin, mr. Nikolaos Reppas. The ancient city of Nafpactos is the city that dedicated the famous statue of **Victory of Paeonios** in ancient Olympia.

4) The begining of gathering of Olympic memorabilia in order to organize a **small Museum in Memory of Pierre de Coubertin.**

5) To circulate in co-operation with the Hellenic Post Service a **special circulation seal** at the day of the anniversary from the death of Pierre de Coubertin.

Chrysoula Paralika
Secretary General

GUATEMALA

The Baron Pierre de Coubertin Commission organised course in schools on Olympism and the Ideas of the renovator of the Games.

NEW ZEALAND

Institut Pierre de Coubertin information for IPCC newsletter.

The Institute is dedicated to teaching people about Olympism (Olympic Values) and «balanced human development». It does this through a range of programmes and events that everyone can be involved in such as exhibitions, performances, competitions, and educational courses.

In 1997 the Institute's four week residential «balanced human development» programme is due to begin and will include youth between the ages of 18-25 years from the Oceania Olympic continent countries of New Zealand, Fiji, Western Samoa and Australia. Two men and two women will be selected from these countries to participate along with twenty young people from New Zeland in a programme to be held in Wellington during December and January. One of the key qualities for selection will be leadership potential. The Institute will utilize the facilities, expertise and institutions available in the host city.

The participants will be required to further develop their leadership skills and demonstrate achievement in the physical, intellectual, social, artistic and environmental areas. On successful completion of the programme the participants will present their work to the community at a specially arranged function. It is anticipated that the participants will then promote application of the «balanced human development» ideal (within their respective communities) in leadership roles associated with education, commerce, sport, industry, politics, social service and the environment.

The Institute is an educational organisation. Its aim is to teach people about the values and ideals that form the basis of the work of Pierre de Coubertin. It is an independent, non-profit, and non-governmental institution established in 1991 in Wellington, New Zealand.

Anyone interested in the work of the Institut Pierre de Coubertin and who wishes to find out more about its programmes may contact the Institute at Level 4, Public Library, Civic Centre, Wellington, New Zealand 6001, phone (64.4) 801 4154, fax (64.4) 471 2152.

Clive Moon
Director

VENEZUELA

The Venezuelan Pierre de Coubertin Committee is very active under the direction of its President, Ms Flor Isava Fonseca, whom we congratulate.

YUGOSLAVIA

The initiative for the creation of the Yugoslavian Pierre de Coubertin Committee was launched in April 1996 by the members of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee, Ivan Curkovic and P. Manojlovic, in the presence of the Yugoslavian Olympic Committee.

During the Presidential Assembly of the Yugoslavian National Olympic Committee on 22 May 1996, the Statute of the Yugoslavian Pierre de Coubertin Committee was created and adopted and the two members of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee, Ivan Curkovic and P. Manojlovic were entrusted with the preparation of a schedule of work and activities for the Yugoslavian Pierre de Coubertin Committee before the end of 1996.

During the Annual Assembly of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee in Lausanne on December 16th, Messrs. Curkovic and Manojlovic gave their report on the progress of their activities, and they presented, among other things, a book on the first Centenary of Olympism in the Yugoslavian territory and the participation of Yugoslavian athletes in the Olympic Games. The preface to the book remembers the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee and praises the work, the importance and the influence of the father of Modern Olympism, Pierre de Coubertin, on the Olympic Movement. The photo of Pierre de Coubertin on the cover, honours this work of 337 pages.

On this occasion, the original film of the journey of the Olympic Flame to Belgrade in 1936 was shown. This unique 7 minutes documentary caused great interest among the members of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee and the President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, who was present at the time. This documentary film was a gift from the Yugoslavian Pierre de Coubertin Committee to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

On their return to Belgrade, the members of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee, Ivan Curkovic and P. Manojlovic were called to the first Constitutive Presidential Assembly of the Yugoslavian Olympic Committee to report on the changes: D. Kicanovic, the famous ex-basketball player, one of the best of all times, was elected as the new President. He replaced Mr. Bakocevic, who had been head of the Yugoslavian National Olympic Committee for eight very successful years.

The new President, Mr. Kicanovic, enthusiastically welcomed the Pierre de Coubertin Committee, and after having adopted the programme of the Pierre de Coubertin Committee, he elected the President and Vice-president of the Committee.

I. Curkovic and P. Manjlovic, members of the CIPC, were named as President and Vice-president respectively and were given the responsibility of electing new members to constitute the Yugoslavian Pierre de Coubertin Committee and to pursue and apply the planned programme of growth and work.

Ivan Curkovic
President of the Yugoslavian Pierre de Coubertin Committee
Member of the Pierre de Coubertin Bureau

INTERNATIONAL PIERRE DE COUBERTIN COMMITTEE

President's Comments

I convey my sincerest greetings to all the members of the Association and I am very glad to note that, thanks to the collaboration of one and all, this continues to go from strength to strength.

One has to note that in the period from 1992 till today, the number of affiliated members has grown from 72 to 150 and continues to rise. In addition to the first two national Pierre de Coubertin Committees (France and Bolivia), 12 more have been created and others are at different stages of development, all of these are a great help at national level for the popularisation of the rich humanistic philosophy of or founder.

During the last quarter, the activities in the spreading of the word of Pierre de Coubertin have been intense and have benefited from the support for the Olympic Academy by the IOC through the courses of dissemination of the philosophy and image of Pierre de Coubertin. Thanks to this help, the Academies of the following countries have been able to organise, and at the same time benefit from these courses:

Columbia (Bogota) 23rd-26th January. Inauguration of the Pierre de Coubertin Museum and the bust of our founder. In Medellín, a conference was held on the life of Pierre de Coubertin.

Mozambique 6th-11th February. The creation of the first Portuguese speaking Olympic Academy (apart from Portugal). A special session on Pierre de Coubertin was held and received ample attention from the local press.

Spain (Valladolid). One must highlight the presence of the Olympic artist, Cristobal Gabarron, together with the work in progress for the renovation of an historic building in the centre of the city where a Pierre de Coubertin museum, a library and a gallery for temporary exhibitions will be installed.

Cuba (Havana) A group of university professors are drawing up the statutes of the Cuban Pierre de Coubertin Committee.

Following this summary of the activities I wish to congratulate, in my name and in the name of all the members of our committee, Professor Yves P. Boulongne and Doctor, Professor Norbert Müller, Vice-president of the CIPC for the Olympic Order which they recently received and by which the International Olympic Committee recognised their work in favour of Olympism.

On 15th February the members of the Bureau held a working meeting in Le Havre where they were received by the Mayor and President of the region Mr. Antoine Rufenacht and by the Deputy Mayor, Ms. Annick Faury. These two personalities confirmed their unconditional support for the Congress of Le Havre which will be inaugurated on 17th September and will be organised with enthusiasm and efficiency by our colleagues Yves Boulongue, Jean Durry and Norbert Müller.

Conrado Durántez
President
Pierre de Coubertin International Committee

GENERAL SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

The Pierre de Coubertin International Committee congratulates those members who have received decorations.

The two vice-presidents of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee, Yves Boulongne and Norbert Müller as well as our members, Professors Carl Lénnartz and Otto Schanz who received the Olympic Order.

Our President, Conrado Durántez, was proposed as «Presidente de la Sala de lo Social del Tribunal Superior de Justicia de Madrid. He received the International Prize from the Metropolitan University of Santiago de Chile. Moreover, he was made Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Cuba.

Our French member, Nelson Paillou, was named «Commandeur de la Legion de Honeur».

Many of the members of the Bureau were present at the Atlanta Games and did some useful propaganda for our Committee. In collaboration with the Olympic Museum, we have published a leaflet in French, English and Spanish on Pierre de Coubertin, the Olympic Humanist. This leaflet has been very successful.

Jean Durry, member of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee, and director of the French National Museum of Sport, has written a book «Almanac of Sport from its origins to our days». Two volumes which relate the greatest sporting achievements in living memory. He is also the brilliant organiser of the exhibition «Once Upon a Time in Sport…» in the Olympic Museum of Lausanne.

This exhibition contains original posters dated between 1798 and 1914.

During the inauguration in the presence of the Minister Guy Drut and a large number of Swiss and foreign personalities, Jean Durry was a perfect and very interesting guide who managed to captivate his audience.

In April, Conrado Durántez, President of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee, and Ms. Ada Wild, General Secretary, attended «La fiesta del Deporte» in Caceres, Spain, and the unveiling of a bust of Pierre de Coubertin, donated by the International Olympic Committee, in one of the parks of the city.

One of our members, Jean-Loup Chappelet, Professor of Public Management, produced in collaboration with Marie-Hélène Roukhadze (head of the Publishing Department of the International Olympic Committee) a work called, «The Management of Sport - an International Approach»

A brochure has appeared in Poland on, «Pierre de Coubertin and his Ode to Sport» published under the supervision of Doctor Krzysztof Zuchora. Thanks to the support among others of the Polish Olympic Committee and the Polish Olympic Academy. In addition our member, Dr. Wojciech Liponski has worked actively in his country to spread the ideas of the renovator of the Olympic Games.

In several countries, Pierre de Coubertin International Committees are being formed and we hope that they will be functioning by the end of 1997.

Ada Wild
General Secretary

THE CENTENARY CONGRESS

From 17th to 20th September we will organise «The Centenary Congress» in Le Havre (France Seine Maritime).

Why Le Havre? Why this Congress?

In June 1897, Pierre de Coubertin, needed to take a deep breathe following the success of the first Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. But from then on, the difficulties and tensions arose between the International Olympic Committee and the political powers of the host cities.

Pierre de Coubertin saw this coming and believed that the Games should not only be a beautiful showcase for darker and more anonymous work on the level of educational reforms which he considered to be outdated an he tried to draw in his few troops and above all to place the Olympic Movement on healthy educational bases and attempt to ensure the independence of the recently formed International Olympic Committee.

From this came the idea of gathering his affiliated members together in Le Havre, far from the bustle of the big cities and the pressures of governments, and also the idea of organising a Congress where only pedagogic problems were discussed on these three chosen subjects: Pedagogy, Hygiene and Sport.

To commemorate this founding ceremony of the Olympic Movement, we have decided, on the initiative of our friend and colleague, Don Anthony, to hold a Centenary Congress in Le Havre from 15th-20th September.

This Congress has been received and supported with enthusiasm by the political and administrative authorities of the city of Le Havre, by the General Council of Seine Maritime, by the Regional Council of Haute Normandy and also by the French Minister for Youth and Sport, by the National Olympic Committee of French Sport, by the International Olympic Committee and by the Franco-German Office Under the patronage of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the Congress will consist of two parts.

The first part will be historical, and eminent specialists on Olympism will be called to participate. These will correspond with the nationalities of the first speakers in 1897. The most renowned investigators of France, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, the Czech Republic and the USA have already responded to our summons.

The second part, on the Coubertinian motto «All Sports for all people», will count on the participation of leading representatives of University and Olympic Intelligentsia. Luc Ferry (France), Norbert Müller (Germany), Keba Mbaye (Senegal) Luis Monreal (España), Lamartin Da Costa (Brazil) etc…

Youth, which was the constant concern of Pierre de Coubertin and remains our concern too, will not be forgotten, delegations from the Liceos Pierre de Coubertin of France (Le Havre), Germany (Berlin, Erfurt), Austria (Dervirn), and Great Britain (Wenlock, Rugby) will gather in a Forum of Youth and will debate at the same time, Olympism and its effect on youth.

For the organisation of this congress the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee, has named a commission made up of Yves Boulongne, Jean Durry (co-presidents) Norbert Müller and Don Anthony.

The Centenary Congress will be a great success, we can already affirm this.

Come in great number! Coubertin and Normandy are waiting you.

Yves-Pierre Boulongne
Vice-president
Pierre de Coubertin International Committee

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

«Pierre de Coubertin, sa vie par l'image»
(Pierre de Coubertin, his life through pictures)
First numbered edition, limited quantity. Album illustrated by photographs and documents. Price CHF. 30.–.

«Actualité de Pierre de Coubertin»
«The relevance of Pierre de Coubertin today»
Report of the Symposium held in March 1986 at the University of Lausanne.
CHF. 30.–.

Bibliographie des œuvres de Pierre de Coubertin (Bibliography / Bibliografia)
Dr. Norbert Müller, in collaboration with M. Otto Schantz. CHF. 25.–.

La vie et l'œuvre de Pierre de Coubertin 1863-1937
(The Life and Pedagogic Works of Pierre de Coubertin 1863-1937)
Prof. Yves - Pierre Boulongne, CHF. 30.–

Textes choisis de Pierre de Coubertin
(Chosen Texts by Pierre de Coubertin)
French edition, original texts. Box containing 3 volumes: «Révélation», «Olympisme», «Pratique sportive» and the album Pierre de Coubertin, his life through pictures, nearly 300 pages. Numerous illustrations and reproductions of documents.
CHF. 80.–.

Brochures: **Pierre de Coubertin and the Arts**
Pierre de Coubertin and History
Pierre de Coubertin, the Unknown
French / English / Spanish editions.

Pour un humanisme du Sport
(For Humanism in Sport)
under the direction of Prof. Yves Boulongne, on the occasion of the Centenary Congress.
Published by the FOSNC, Paris.

Le Livre du Centenaire
(The Centenary Book)
Published by the I.O.C.
Volume 1 is already out and deals with:

1. Vikelas - Coubertin (1894-1925) by Prof. Yves Pierre Boulongne
2. Baillet - Latour (1925-1942) by Dr. Karl Lennartz

APPEAL

The reader will note the unequal importance of the above news and above all the absence of news coming from many countries where we are present and where there are certainly interesting events. It is for this reason that we launch an urgent appeal to all members that they furnish for the edition of this «Information Letter» these items worth bringing to the attention of our readers when they pertain to an action or an event related to Pierre de Coubertin and to his work.

Friends of the Olympic Movement, create National Pierre de Coubertin Committees.
We are at your disposal to send you our brochure «Instructions and suggestions for the creation of a National Pierre de Coubertin Committee».

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Lausanne 1997

Published by: *the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee*
Headquarters: *Lausanne - Switzerland*
Secretariat: *Avenue Verdeil 1 - CH-1005 Lausanne - Fax (41) 21 323 76 50*