

# GERMANY AND THE 1948 OLYMPIC GAMES IN LONDON]

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## REACTIVATION OF THE CONNECTIONS TO THE IOC

**T**owards the end of World War II, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) contained two German members: Karl Ritter von Halt and Duke Adolf Friedrich zu Mecklenburg. A third member, field-marshal Walter von Reichenau, had died in Russia of a stroke (cerebral apoplexy) on 17th January, 1942.

Even after the war zu Mecklenburg and von Halt were regularly to be found in the lists of the IOC. In Edström's first letter to the IOC-members on 1st June, 1945, Edström voices his concern about the fate of the two Germans, since he had no information of their destinies. After the war von Halt reported to the Russian commander's office and was arrested, remaining in the internment camp, Buchenwald, until 1950. Grete von Halt, Diem and the Duke of Mecklenburg, wrote many letters to Edström, Brundage and other IOC members, begging for help and support for him. Duke Adolf Friedrich had fled from his estates in Mecklenburg and taken refuge at a castle in Eutin, Schleswig Holstein.

The former secretary-general of the Olympic Games 1936 in Berlin and the planned Winter Olympic Games 1940 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Carl Diem, was director of the International Olympic Institute, an organisation which had been founded by the "Deutsches Reich" at Coubertin's instigation. In this function Diem edited the "Olympische Rundschau" (Olympic Review) for the IOC "with official gazettes of the International Olympic Committee". Further he participated in the 50th anniversary of the IOC in Lausanne in June, 1944. After the end of the war, which he had spent in Berlin, Diem immediately took to lecturing to

students and organizing sport on the “Reichssportfeld.” Even after the German capitulation he still considered himself to be the director of the Olympic Institute and editor of the “Olympische Rundschau” (Olympic Review). According to his letter of appointment his term of office was to last until 31st December, 1948.<sup>2</sup> On 21st August, 1945 he wrote to his friend Avery Brundage who was a member of the Executive Committee of the IOC. Diem declared his willingness to continue the work of the International Olympic Institute and to pass his knowledge and experience gained at the 1936 Olympic Games, on to the next host of the Olympics.<sup>3</sup>

In a letter addressed to the acting IOC president Edström<sup>4</sup>, written on the same day, Diem writes:

“According to radio news, the Olympic Committee is planning to stage a convention in London in the near future. You can imagine that my thoughts will be with you”<sup>5</sup> Diem was referring to the conference of the Executive Committee in London from 21st - 24th August, 1945. The participants Edström, Brundage and Lord Aberdare particularly discussed the topic of host country for the 1948 Games. A German participation was not on the agenda of discussion. In Arnd Krüger’s<sup>6</sup> opinion, the Executive Committee was of the opinion that Germany should not take part in the 1948 Games. Nothing of the kind, however, can be found in the minutes of meeting and in Edström’s circular

letter written to the IOC members on 1st September, 1945. At the beginning of January, 1945, still wartime as it were, Avery Brundage had mentioned in an interview that Germany and Japan would be invited to the Olympic Games if they were politically and economically recognized.<sup>7</sup>

On 17th December, 1945 the Allied Control Council passed the Directive Nr. 23, according to which all German sports organizations had to be dissolved by 1st January, 1946. Diem did not seem to have applied this to the International Olympic Institute.

On 18th December, 1945 Diem wrote to Brundage, suggesting setting up an Olympic Academy in Berlin. This academy was to become a connection between the former “Deutsche Hochschule für Leibesübungen” and the International Olympic Institute. “Sports students from all over the world were to be educated in courses of one year duration with the USA”<sup>8</sup> covering the expenses.

## SESSION IN LAUSANNE

### WITHOUT GERMAN PARTICIPATION

It seems that Edström had sent Diem an invitation to the 39th IOC meeting in Lausanne.<sup>9</sup> At any rate the Duke of Mecklenburg made inquiries since he had not received one. If Germany were to be excluded from the Games in 1948 he, the Duke, would immediately resign membership of the IOC. He had also informed Edström of this intention. As Diem had thought, the question of German exclusion had not yet been decided, Mecklenburg agreed not to send in his letter of resignation. He hoped that Diem would be nominated as the third German IOC member as successor to von Reichenau.

The former IOC member, Theodor Lewald, expressed similar opinions in a comprehensive letter to Aberdare. This letter had been drafted by Diem. Six months later the Duke once more mentioned the topic of membership to Diem and once again asked for a nomination of a further candidate. Diem replied by saying that von Halt would not be a suitable candidate after his release from Buchenwald. Diem himself was prepared to act as a candidate, suggesting Peco Bauwens as the third German representative. Mecklenburg agreed and wrote to Edström to this end. Bauwens informed Diem who gave himself as deeply honoured.

On 21st May, Edström informed Diem that a participation in Lausanne, however would not be appropriate. Nevertheless Diem, in

hoping for a renewed invitation, offered his services for the organization of the Olympic Games in London, whilst inwardly fearing that his Olympic activities had come to an end. In the summer of 1946 Edström sent invitations to IOC members including Mecklenburg for the planned meeting. The Duke, who would not have received permission to go abroad by the occupational authorities, declined, since he did not want to take part in a meeting which planned to exclude Germany.

In a letter to Mecklenburg, Diem criticized Edström stating that Edström had not given him sufficient support. He asked Mecklenburg, however, to bide his time and not to resign his membership. In two further letters<sup>10</sup>, Edström advised Diem: “that I would dissuade you from your participation in Lausanne”. Diem followed Edström’s advice. Nevertheless he offered his services to the continuation of the Olympic Institute and as editor of the “Olympische Rundschau” (Olympic Review). July,

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1946 was party to Mecklenburg receiving an answer from Edström maintaining that the German participation had not yet been decided one way or the other. The Duke replied that due to the zonal divisions, it would be difficult to nominate a powerful team. The ensuing exchange of letters between Edström and Diem dealt with the whereabouts of the Olympic Flag and of the “official chains”, which the IOC members had received in 1936.

From 2nd - 7th September, 1946, the IOC held a meeting in Lausanne. Only 17 IOC members took part in this 39th meeting. 13 new members were appointed, nine of whom were present. Edström and Brundage were elected as president and vice-president, respectively. Edström subsequently sent the five page protocol to both the Duke and Diem. It contained no reference concerning the exclusion or inclusion of Germany at the 1948 Games. In spite of this, the IOC decided to edit a new “Olympische Rundschau” (Olympic Review)<sup>11</sup> from the Swiss, Otto Mayer. Edström however called upon Diem to make contributions.<sup>12</sup> Edström added the handwritten sentence: “Unfortunately the anti-German mood is still very strong”. The second edition of the “Bulletin des Comité International Olympique”, dated 16th December, 1946, contained a list of addresses of all the NOC’s. The list also named Germany, however, without an address. The directive No. 23 and the edition of a new official authority finally ended Diem’s term of office as an IOC functionary. His reaction to this development and to the still remaining question of Germany’s participation in the 1948 Olympic Games, was to suggest to the Duke of Mecklenburg that: “As far as Germany is concerned, we must found an Olympic Committee as soon as possible”.

#### FIRST INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES: SPORTS CONFERENCE IN FRANKFURT AND OLYMPIC SOCIETY

A (German) interzonal sports conference was to be the basis of a renewal of the National Olympic Committee. For the case that the conference, not being able to assemble where planned due to organizational difficulties, Diem and Bauwens were determined to try it solely in Köln (Cologne). Mecklenburg subscribed to this without reservation. A working committee was formed dur-

ing the German Athletics Championships which took place in Frankfurt on 25th August, 1946. This committee was able to name under its members: Diem<sup>13</sup>, Peco Bauwens the later chairman of the German Football Commission, Ludwig Wolker the president of the DJK (German Catholic Sport Organization), Heinrich Sorg speaker of the Executive Committee of the SPD (Social Democratic Party) and Hugo Grömmner secretary of the Zonal Sports Council of the British zone of occupation. This Committee made the preparations for the conference their object.<sup>14</sup>

The journalist, Karl Brinkmann, was the liaison man between the County Sports Association Hessen and the county government. Brinkmann issued invitations to the assembly which took place on 26th - 28th November, 1946.

The actual aim: “to produce a uniform sports organization for the whole of Germany”<sup>15</sup> was not achieved. Nevertheless Diem was of the opinion that a German Sports Committee had been created: “which stays in action until an official German Sports Administration is born. This Sports Committee contains representatives of the sports associations in the western and southern zones as well as personal members, who are known to the renowned prelate Wolker and myself. The chairman of the Sports Association of Hessen is in charge of the Committee”.

The conference start was beset with quarrels as Brinkmann had not invited several County Associations. Further, an Olympic Committee was not founded, even a planned “Olympic Ceremony” did not come about.

Problems occurred concerning organization, professional association versus general association and accusations coming from the labour sportsmen, in particular from Heinrich Sorg. These accusations were directed at Diem, who was accused of sympathising with national socialism and manipulating the conference to his advantage. The accusations, however, were refuted.<sup>17</sup> A further account of the conference stated that Sorg did not aim the accusations directly at Diem but rather stressed that sport should create a new moral, a new ideology and should re-educate the German people.<sup>18</sup> In his report on the conference Sorg argued in the vein that: “The German Sports Movement must first go through a comprehensive innate change before it has the slightest chance of being admitted. It is

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pointless to speak of an Olympic Committee today".<sup>19</sup>

Diem reported that the question whether Germany should participate in the Olympic Games in London would be discussed and their participation decided at the Session in Stockholm. He expected a positive result. Diem's lecture was broadcast on radio.

The first of the six guiding principles, which Diem had formulated and which formed the basis of the Olympic idea are contained in the following: 'The German sport will remain friend and patron of the Olympic idea. It regards the Olympic idea as the amicable contact between youth of all peoples with the spirit of worldwide peace and as a connection between sport and art as higher human education. In order to fulfill these obligations the founding of an Olympic Association is planned'.

An Olympic Society should support the work of such an association. Diem first mentioned this in a letter to Lindner on 13th December, 1946. Each member was required to pay an annual membership fee of twelve "Reichsmark" into a fund, in order to partly cover the travelling costs to the Games. Furthermore he, Diem, intended to edit a journal which should appear every three months.

In his written reply on 13th January, 1947, Lindner stated that a conference of the working pool of the south German sport associations had been held a few days earlier in Bad Nauheim, Frankfurt under his chairmanship. The working pool apparently had founded an Olympic Society with an annual membership fee of 12 "Reichsmark". "This foundation lives up to your expectations". Lindner encouraged Diem to become a member.<sup>20</sup>

Up to this time the tenor in their correspondence had been rather cordial but now Diem's reply was much cooler. Diem was furious that his idea of an Olympic Society had been appropriated by others and the society founded without first informing him. Diem was of the opinion that the preparations should have been better and combined with the renewal of the NOC throughout the whole of Germany. He complained to Bauwens in an even more direct manner, "It seems quite an affront that you usurp my idea of an Olympic Society without even consulting me and that you go so far as to insult me by seeking my assistance. All this proves that you are withholding the leadership from me in this matter and are trying to take advantage of me".<sup>21</sup> As a result Bauwens took Diem's side and called upon Lindner not to proclaim the founding of the Society publicly. Another member of this Society was Sorg, who confirmed the true purpose of this organization, which was to take the role of an NOC: "The Olympic Society was founded in order to preserve the democratic procedure and the prerogatives of the associations. In it we are strongly represented and it will be the platform from which international relationships are to be manifested".<sup>22</sup>

The Olympic Society of today, which was founded

resulting from a suggestion of Diem's in 1951, had a further forerunner at the beginning of 1949. It was created in particular by Diem, Klingenberg and Lessing in order to, among other things, finance the Duke's journey to the 1949 Session in Rome. This Conference did not come about.

#### PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOUNDING OF AN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

At the beginning of December, 1946 Germany was privy to the official denial of the British Organisation Committee that Germany and Japan had already received invitations to the Olympic Games. Diem interpreted this as an effort by the "English sections"<sup>23</sup> to undermine German participation from the very start. As a counter-measure, Diem aimed at officially founding an Olympic Committee in Spring, thus fulfilling the formal conditions for Germany's admission to the invitation list.<sup>24</sup> In his function as a representative of the Sporting Youth in the US zone, Kurd-Roland Roesler protested in January, 1947 in an open letter against the exclusion of Germany and Japan of the 1948 Games. Roesler is the son of Kurd Roesler who was general secretary of the "German Reichsausschuss" for Olympic Games from 1913 until 1925.

Gottfried von Cramm and Eberhard Freiherr von Oppenheim, who were working at the American military government headquarters in Frankfurt/M, also called upon Diem to found a NOC. Diem continued to hope for recognition by the IOC and for permission to participate in London. Diem made a proposal to the American military government on the 13th December, 1946, which dealt with the foundation and authorization of a NOC.

Diem had prepared this proposal through a visit to the educational department head of the American military government in Berlin, Prof. Dr. Alexander, who had suggested that Diem should prepare such a petition. Diem informed Edström and Lindner the same day of his intentions. In these communications he suggested a conference in March the following year to found the NOC. "Regarding the composition of the German Olympic Committee I suggest it should consist of five members of the present German Sports Committee which we founded in Frankfurt. Further a representative of each branch of sport presented, a representative of art, a recognised sports physician and a recognised sports teacher".<sup>25</sup>

In his written response Lindner remarked that Diem's proposal to the American military government had been attacked by several representatives of the southern German sport associations. Nevertheless, he had supported Diem and agreed with his vision of the assembly of the NOC. The American military government turned down Diem's proposal on 5th February, 1947. For this reason Diem sent an identical letter to the Allied Control Council a day later. The Council did not find it necessary to reply.

Diem sent a detailed statement to Baron von Oppenheim at Easter 1947, which contained arguments supporting his proposal. Oppenheim wanted to pass it on to the London broadsheet "The Times" for publication, thus promoting German support in England. As Diem did not want to be named as author, Oppenheim, with Diem's agreement, modified the content slightly, translated it into English and sent it under his name to The Times for publication. During a journey to Paris, Oppenheim also made contact with the French NOC.

The IOC president Edström reacted positively to the news of the planned foundation of the German NOC, "since this was the first condition for German participation in Sankt Moritz and London". He still did not believe that a decision would already be made at the Session in Stockholm. Brundage had expressed similar views to Diem. Theodor Lewald was informed by Lord Aberdare of the British Organisation Committee that Germany was not on the invitation lists. On the other hand Dan Ferris, a high-standing functionary of the US athletics made determined efforts to achieve German participation.

The German Olympic Committee, subject to the consent of the Allied Control Council, was to be founded at the second German Sports Conference in Frankfurt, from 18th - 20th April, 1947. Diem sent Lindner an outline of statutes and articles for inspection as had been arranged on 28th February, 1947. Lindner for his part sent Diem an outline of statutes and articles.<sup>26</sup>

It was Diem's opinion that the Duke of Mecklenburg should be present in Frankfurt. The Duke confirmed his participation. The planned conference was cancelled at the beginning of April. Diem, who had meanwhile moved from Berlin to Köln (Cologne) and had established the "Deutsche Sporthochschule" (German Sports University), deeply regretted this, a sentiment he communicated to the Duke: "The crucial point is to be found in the awkwardness and inability of the residing chairman to master problems which arise".<sup>27</sup> The Duke was of the opinion that one reason why the conference did not take place was the prohibited participation of the Württemberg functionaries by the local governing military authorities.

At the beginning of March, Edström invited the Duke of Mecklenburg to the Session in Stockholm.<sup>28</sup> The Duke

responded: "that due to personal reasons it was not possible for him to accept the invitation".<sup>29</sup> Edström's remarks regarding the acceptance of a German Committee were skeptical: "There are several Olympic committees that shall be accepted...and possibly Germany, if a German committee is ready at that time. I feel, however, certain that Germany will not be accepted as yet".<sup>30</sup> On 8th May, 1947, the Duke and Heinz Lindner met in Büdingen (Oberhessen). The sports conference was now planned to take place at the beginning of July. The Duke was pressing energetically for the foundation of the Olympic Committee, which definitely should be founded before the Session (19th-21st June).

Walther von Adelson, the representative from Hamburg of the Committee for Athletics of the Gymnastics- and Sports Council, demanded in several letters, that the German Olympic Committee be founded in Köln (Cologne), if Frankfurt presented difficulties.

On the 28th May, 1947 the Duke of Mecklenburg, von Adelson, Bauwens, Diem, Hugo Lürer the representative of the gymnasts from Hamburg, Paul Reinberg and Walter Wülfing, the two umpires for hockey and rowing in the British Zonal Sports Council came together in Köln (Cologne). During their "discussions on the foundation of an Olympic Committee" a consensus was formed that a temporary committee be founded "pending the outstanding permission by the Control Council to found an Olympic Committee". This committee was to consist of the German representative of the IOC and one representative from each of the following sport disciplines - athletics,

soccer, gymnastics, rowing, hockey. The same day, Duke Adolf Friedrich sent a telegraph to Edström: "The foundation of the Olympic Committee is going to take place on 8th June".

#### THE PRELIMINARY GERMAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

About 100 representatives of sport assembled in Frankfurt on 7th and 8th June, 1947. Lindner, as could be seen below the letter-head "County Sports Association Hessen", had invited the participants to the "Sports Conference" on 16th May, 1947. He no longer thought much of the idea to found a "German Olympic Association". He merely mentioned the "creation of a letterbox in case the IOC should decide at their meeting on

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### THE GERMAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, SUBJECT TO THE CONSENT OF THE ALLIED CONTROL COUNCIL, WAS TO BE FOUNDED AT THE SECOND GERMAN SPORTS CONFERENCE IN FRANKFURT, FROM 18TH - 20TH APRIL, 1947.

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21st June in Stockholm that, due to the nonpolitical character of sports and the Olympic Games, Germany should be invited to the 1948 Olympic Games". An additional letter addressed to the participants dated 30th May, 1947, which merely contained the agenda listed under the heading "information concerning the Olympic Games".

As at the first conference, Sorg made accusations against Diem.<sup>31</sup> In spite of this a preliminary German Olympic Association was formed, with the Duke of Mecklenburg as chairman, pending formal recognition by the IOC. Further members were: Bauwens, von Adelson, the chairman of the County Sports Association, Heinrich Hünecke, Oskar Dress, the former sportsman from the workers' movement and Hugo Grömmmer. For tactical reasons and because of the renewed accusations by Sorg and to avoid repeated national and international accusations, Diem was not a member of this Committee.

If Krüger<sup>32</sup> and Eichel<sup>33</sup> had had their way, the French military government would have prohibited his membership. Two weeks later on 19th June, 1947 Diem wrote to Lessing: "Finally I did not become a member because Sorg from the SPD (Social Democratic Party) denied me his confidence in the name of his friends".<sup>34</sup> The "Frankfurter Neue Presse" of 9th June, 1947 maintained that Sorg and his supporters "wanted to adjourn the questions regarding Olympia in favour of an exchange of views dealing with the internal situation of the German sport". Their proposal was dismissed. A number of participants at the conference understood the purpose of the Committee, not so much in the necessary participation in London, but more "in preventing the exclusion of Germany in participating in the Olympic idea."

The representatives of the British and American County Sports Associations were also present, as were the sports delegates of the French zone, together with a representative of the American military government. The letter advised that only sport personalities from the British zone be nominated as members.

The Duke of Mecklenburg informed Edström about the founding on the same day, a fact which Edström accepted. A petition for acceptance by the military authority did not seem to have been made<sup>35</sup> since this occurred on 10th February, 1949, after the working group "German Sport" had formed itself in Homburg on 23rd October, 1948 and had claimed the function of a NOC.<sup>36</sup>

At the 40th Session in Stockholm from 19th - 21st June, 1947, the general secretary of the Organizing Committee, Lord Burghley, gave a status report of the preparations for London, adding that Germany and Japan would not be invited, since they did not have a NOC. A different part of the minutes of meeting states that: "Allemagne. - Une Comité Olympique vient d'être constitué à Frankfurt. Sa

reconnaissance est refusée." It seemed at first that the IOC did not accept the German Olympic Committee founded by Diem and the Duke. The refusal to allow Germany's participation was made public through the press and through a letter from Edström to the Duke of Mecklenburg.<sup>37</sup> The responsible parties in Germany were disappointed and Mecklenburg wanted to resign from the IOC. Diem even considered a dissolution of the Olympic Committee.

Both soon came to the conclusion that the Duke's resignation from the IOC would not further their policies. They decided to let the Olympic Committee exist passively in the background, particularly with regard to the 1952 Games. The Duke even protested to Edström against the decision of the IOC.

As a result of the invitation from Edström, Diem took part in the Olympic Games in London as a guest of honour.

Even though the Olympic Committee was not recognized officially by the IOC, Edström in his function as IOC president referred to its existence one and a half years later. After the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Sport" (Working Group of German Sport) had been founded in Bad Homburg in October 1948, its chairman, Lindner, informed Edström "that this organisation would also take the function as a National Olympic Committee". Edström replied that to his knowledge an Olympic Committee already existed under the leadership of Diem and Mecklenburg. Edström immediately sent a copy of his letter to Diem. Diem added an open letter to this letter propagating his position. When Diem and the Duke were asked to become members of the Committee, Diem declined whereas zu Mecklenburg agreed to compromise in this matter.

Ultimately, Germany was merely represented in London by Carl Diem, Helmut Bantz and several journalists. Bantz, who would have probably been the most favourite gymnast in many disciplines in 1940 and 1944, won his first gold medal not until the end of his career in 1956 in the discipline 'horse vaulting'. In 1948, he was a prisoner of war in England. The English gymnasts were trained by him. This was not officially allowed. As a result, Bantz had to keep a low profile and remain in the background.

A German NOC could only be established the day after the German Federal Republic was founded on 24 September 1949. The IOC recognized it as such at the conference in May 1951 in Vienna (Wien).

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NOTES: 1. The existing article is mainly based upon the extensive correspondence of Carl Diem. Other references or source material are marked as such. All cited documents without place of discovery are to be found as either originals or copies in the Carl-Diem-Archive. In order to guarantee good readability, the idea of demonstrating the complete referred letters in the Carl-Diem-Archive with date of

origin was abandoned. A respective index is available for interested readers in the Diem-Archive.

2 Printed in "Dokumente zum Aufbau des deutschen Sports", Red.: Karl Lennartz/Jürgen Buschmann, Sankt Augustin 1984, 196.

3 But the sketch in German maintains: I would be glad to participate (approaching IOC session) especially since I remain entangled in the Olympic work as director of the Olympic Institute and want to convey my knowledge of 1936 to the next host.

4 IOC president Baillet-Latour had died in 1942. A successor had not yet been elected.

5 Werner Klingenberg, secretary of the IOC, had also written to Edström. He received a reply stating that Baillet-Latour had placed the secretariat into the hands of Madame Zanchi, so he could not consider himself to still be in charge of the position.

6 Arnd Krüger, Deutschland und die olympische Bewegung (1918-1945), in: Horst Ueberhorst, Geschichte der Leibesübungen, Bd. 3/2, Berlin 1982, 1052.

7 Compare Brundage to Edström 9.1.1945 (IOC-Archive).

8 Avery Brundage-Collection, Box 22.

9 Letter not available, compare Diem to Klingenberg 25.6.1946, Lessing to Diem 28.4.1946.

10 Edström to Diem 13th and 27th June 1946.

11 Bulletin du Comité International de Jeux Olympiques. Edström had already announced this in his first circular letter after the war on 1st June, 1945.

12 Several IOC members showed resistance. Cooperation yes, but without mentioning his name. As a result the first contribution "Le muscle et l'esprit" is merely signed C.D..

13 On his way to Frankfurt Diem wrote into his diary: "Thinking over of a summoning of the German Sports Conference. Programme composed." (23.8.1946).

14 See also Erich Harte's report 2.12.1946, printed in: Eduard Strych, Der westdeutsche Sport in der Phase der Neugründung 1945-1950, Schorndorf 1975, 83-84. See also: Carl Diem, Ein Leben für den Sport, Ratingen 1974, 240-244.

15 Strych, 1975, 51.

16 Diem to Mecklenburg 17.12.1946.

17 Diem, 1974, 241. Compare Diem's diary 25.8.1946 and 27.10.1946, furthermore Diem to Klingenberg 17.12.1946.

18 Report concerning the Sports Conference in Frankfurt/M. on 27th October, 1946 (Archive Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung).

19 Sorg: Die Frankfurter Sportkonferenz. [Dec. 1946], 1 (Archive Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung).

20 Lindner to Diem 13.1.1947 (Archive Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung).

21 Diem to Bauwens 28.1.1947.

22 Excerpt of a report from Sorg to Ollenhauer 16.1.1947 (Archive Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung).

23 Diem to Mecklenburg 6.12.1946.

24 Apparently Brundage had said in a press release, that Germany needs a NOC to participate. This comment reinforced Diem's intentions.

25 Diem to Lindner 13.12.1946. Moreover, Diem was thinking of personal members such as Klingenberg (compare Diem to Klingenberg 11.3.1947).

26 Diem's proposal lead to a quarrel between the two, since Diem now took a different position regarding the participation of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Sport" (Working Group of German Sport).

27 Diem to Mecklenburg 9.4.1947.

28 On 25th January, 1947 Edström had written to the IOC chancellor Otto Mayer that he would not invite the duke as the country did not yet have a NOC (IOC-Archive).

29 Edström to Diem 29.4.1947.

30 Edström to Otto Mayer 1.4.1947 (IOC-Archive).

31 Compare Diem, 1974, 245. Subsequently, Sorg did not weary of continuously compiling and sending away new documentaries regarding the "Diem case". Fussily he went through Diem's documents searching for arguments to enable him of accusing Diem of national-socialistic views. He also asked others to help him in this work. His hostility towards Diem sometimes took grotesque shapes. He for instance wrote: "1923 shows him totally entangled in the Nazi ideology. Sadly it can not be proved whether he was a member of the NSDAP in this year, it is a allegation. The descent of his wife became an obstacle" (Informationsdienst der Sozialistischen Kulturzentrale über Fragen des Sports, No. 2, Editor: Sorg, Heinrich, 1947, [Archive Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung]). Liselott Bail commenced her studying in the winter term 1924/25 at the Deutsche Hochschule für Leibesübungen in Berlin. She first became a friend of Diem's in 1926. They married in 1929. Edström who received this documentation responded in a letter to chancellor Otto Mayer (14.11.1949). He described the documentation as "nonsense"!

32 Arnd Krüger, Sport und Politik, Hannover 1975, 92, no given source of material.

33 Wolfgang Eichel (ed.), Geschichte der Körperkultur in Deutschland, Bd. IV, Berlin (Ost) 1967, 63, no given source of material.

34 Diem to Lessing 19.6.1947.

35 Sadly a protocol does not exist any more. An exchange of letters did not come about, since the founding members and Diem were all present. The reconstruction of events is mainly based upon later mentionings in letters, in particular Mecklenburg to Diem 10.2.1949.

36 Joachim Fiebelkorn/Helmut Westphal, Die Olympischen Spiele von Athen bis Mexiko-Stadt, Berlin (Ost) 1969, 104.

37 Edström to Mecklenburg 7.7.1947.

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