

apoyo dado por la Prensa que tenía instalado despachos en los locales de reunión.

Los periodicos como el *A B C*, *Arriba*, *El Alcazar*, *Hoja del Lunes*, *Informaciones*, *Madrid*, *Marca*, *Pueblo*, *Ya*, etc., por nombrar unicamente la Prensa de la capital española, siguieron atentamente los trabajos, habiendo publicado crónicas detalladas y objetivas.

qui lui a été donné par la Presse qui avait un bureau au siège des réunions.

Des Journaux, comme l'*A. B. C. Arriba*, *El Alcazar*, *Hoja de Lunes*, *Informaciones*, *Madrid*, *Marca*, *Pueblo*, *Ya*, etc., pour uniquement mentionner la Presse de la capitale espagnole, ont suivi attentivement les travaux dont ils ont publié des chroniques détaillées et objectives.

WORLD CONGRESS OF PHYSICAL AND SPORTIVE EDUCATION

and

INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON SPORTS MEDICINE

MADRID — SPAIN

1966

By A. Leal d'Oliveira

The *World Congress of Physical and Sportive Education* held in *Madrid*, from 12th to 18th September 1966, will remain in the history of world physical education and of the *F. I. E. P.* as one of the most important events from the cultural point of view, in our epoch.

After the imposing *World Congress* in *Berlin*, 1936, the famous *Lingjads* in *Stockholm*, in 1939 and 1949, and the excellent *Congress* in *Tokyo*, 1964, the *Congress* in *Madrid* was also a magnificent proof of the effort made to take bodily exercises from the grasp of spectacle, the sensational Press and financial and political interests.

It constituted, in fact, a great scientific, technical and social manifestation that brought together about 600 pedagogues, hygienists and scientists from 48 countries for whom it provided an abundant documentation written in 4 languages and the opportunity of exchanging ideas and practical procedures in an atmosphere of truly human comprehension.

The *F. I. E. P.* had the honour of collaborating with the *National Direction of Physical Education and Sports*, of *Spain*, in the organization of the *Congress* which was also

sponsored by the *I. C. S. P. E.* and *I. C. H. P. E. R.* and had the cooperation of the *F. I. M. S.* and other organizations.

The interest of the *Congress* was also increased by the fact that it coincided with the inauguration of a splendid building for the *National Institute of Physical Education* in the *University City*, where the work was done.

I — The Organisation of the Congress

The President and the Secretary General of the *F. I. E. P.* were invited in 1965 to meet in *Madrid* with the Director General of Physical Education Mr. Elola Olaso and the Delegate and Subdelegate of our Organization in *Spain*, Messrs. José Maria Cagigal, President of the Organizing Committee and Edmundo Ruiz Yague, one of the Vice-Presidents, in order to study some details of the *Congress*, specially its date which was fixed, for divers reasons, for September of the following year.

Then the work of organization of the *Congress* was intensified, Mr. José Cagigal

counting on an excellent team of collaborators among whom were translators and interpreters who also worked hard for the success of the event. In its turn the *E. C.* of the *F. I. E. P.* wrote to its Delegates in different countries and published long illustrated communiqués in 4 languages in its *Bulletin* Nos. 4, 1965, and 1-2, 1966.

The programme of the Congress, edited by the *Organizing Committee*, also in 4 languages and strictly followed, was published in an artistically presented book offered to all congressmen at the *Opening Session*.

Every day the lectures that were going to follow, were distributed in Spanish, English, French and German; besides this was also their simultaneous translation in the Auditorium where they took place.

The amplitude of the *Congress*, in spite of the documentation received, does not permit a detailed report. However I shall do my best to give an idea of the event.

Simultaneously to the world *Congress of Physical Education and Sports*, an *International Colloquium on Sports Medicine* was organized by the *Spanish Federation of Sports Medicine* presided over by Dr. Camuñes Pajares (*Spain*), and sponsored by the *F. I. M. S.* presided by Prof. Dr. P. Chailley-Bert (*France*).

II — Opening Session

This *Session* was held in the fine *Auditorium* of the *N. I. P. E.* endowed with all conditions for the realisation of great national and international meetings.

H. E. the Minister D. José Soliz Ruiz presided over it having beside him the governor of Madrid, Mr. Manuel Pardo de Santayana, the President of the *F. I. E. P.*, Mr. Leal d'Oliveira, Mr. San Roman, National Secretary for Physical Education and Sport, who represented the Director General of Physical Education Mr. Elola Olaso prevented from being present by a serious accident, Mrs. Pilar Primo de Rivera, President of the Feminine Section, Messrs Eugénio Lopez, National Delegate for youth, Felice representing the *UNESCO*, Prof. Dr. Chailley-Bert, President of the *F. I. M. S.*, William Jones, Secretary General

of the *I. C. S. P. E.*, Julien Falize, President of the *I. C. H. P. E. R.*, Mrs. Liselott Diem, President of the *I. A. P. E. S. G. W.*, José Cagigal, Director of the *N. I. P. E.*, etc.

The President of the *F. I. E. P.* began the speeches, as follows:

«H. E. the Minister

Messrs the Presidents and other representatives of *International Organizations* and the *Organizing Committee of the Congress*.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

After having already travelled this year thousands of kilometers by plane and railway, always at the service of the *F. I. E. P.*, I was asked to address those who take part in this imposing *Congress* held in the lovely capital of *Spain*.

I have just arrived from an *International Course* in *Aix-en-Provence*, after having taken part in a *Gymnastic Festival* in *Las Palmas* and in the *III Luso-Brazilian Congress of Physical Education*, in *Luanda*. An *International Colloquium* on the *Physical Education of Workers* in *Oporto*, will be also patronized by the *F. I. E. P.* next month.

All these meetings are of interest to an incalculable number of persons among others those belonging to the African-American-Iberian world that count more than 300 million inhabitants.

I owe the honour of speaking to you here to the fact of presiding, at present, over an organization that, since 1923, has sponsored international meetings where specialists, coming from all parts of the world, meet peacefully to study together and understand one another and thus be able to contribute towards the progress of their own countries and world peace.

The international repercussion of these meetings is also due to the *F. I. E. P.* — *Bulletin* written in four languages and sent to nearly 60 countries.

Our Organization has a scientific, technical and social aim, without any discrimination of a religious, political and racial order and a purely hygienic and educational purpose. It lives to serve a humanistic ideal that is common to many people in *Africa*, *America*, *Asia*, *Europe* and *Oceania*, here represented.

Please note that this *Congress* is carried out according to the symbolic sign you see on the cover of the very artistic programme distributed to you. It represents a world that may rise to the heaven of our dreams and does not submit itself completely to the laws of gravity.

I see about 600 congressmen in this beautiful hall of a *National Institute of Physical Education* that will be one of the best in the world, in a *University City* that is already one of the best.

They came to study the theme «*sociological aspects of physical and sportive education*», of such a great importance and actuality.

Wishing the greatest success to this *World Congress*, I greet respectfully again H. E. the Minister who represents here a great country so rich in traditions and possibilities and very cordially an illustrious audience.

Then Mr. Felice stressed the importance of the *Congress* and of the new *National Institute of Physical Education*, Mr. José Cagigal enhanced the educational and social significance of the meeting. Messrs. William Jones, Julien Falize and Nayer, this latter Director of the *I. S. E. P.* of the *University of Louvain*, spoke also, and Mr. San Roman read a message of Mr. Elola Olaso.

In this message the Director General of Physical Education and President of the *Congress*, greeted the specialists who, coming from all parts of the world, alarmed by the artificiality of contemporary life, appreciate the values of natural life and believe in the spiritual and psycho-physical education of the human being, in the joy of exercising themselves, in the beauty of the organic balance, in the nobleness of effort and the need to take an affirmative attitude to face pessimism and anxiety.

At last H. E. the Minister Soliz Ruiz welcomed the Congressmen, showed the importance of physical education, as an essential part of integral education, and inaugurated officially the *Congress* on behalf of H. E. the Chief of the State.

III — The theoretic work (1)

It was developed in accordance with the general theme «*Sociological aspects of physical and sportive education*» subdivided in the following particular themes:

1 — *Physical and sportive education within the classic school systems.*

2 — *How to develop physical and sportive education in the child, the adolescent (pubescent), youth and the adult.*

3 — *Physical and sportive education as a way for social integration.*

4 — *Scientific research in physical education.*

A — Sociological aspects.

B — Biological aspects.

The latter aspects were dealt with in the *International Colloquium on Sportive Medicine* organized by the *Spanish Federation of Sports Medicine*.

IV — The practical work

The lectures delivered on the 13th September by Dr. Gutierrez Salgado (*Spain*), on «*Maternal gymnastics or simultaneous gymnastics for mothers and children*», and by Mr. Gerald Schmith (*Austria*), on «*physical education for different school groups according to age*», were followed by very interesting demonstrations, particularly the first one, because of its originality: Several mothers exercised together with their children, before the Congressmen, performing efficacious and joyful movements.

Then Mr. Schmith improvised a recreative lesson of strength and skill games with Spanish boys.

On the 14th September, Dr. Gutierrez Salgado introduced with his lecture «*Physical education and popular expression*», a demonstration of feminine gymnastics based

(1) There will be perhaps works missing on the list already presented as some of them arrived very late to the Congress Secretariate.

on the rich Spanish folklore and performed by a group of 42 pupils of the *College of Physical Education*.

First the girls showed traditional dances dressed in multicoloured regional clothes and then more systematic exercises inspired by those dances. They were very much applauded.

On the 16th a group of Brazilian young women and a Portuguese one, also feminine, of the *Portuguese Club of Gymnastics (Lisbon)*, showed the so-called «modern» gymnastics.

This same day the Congressmen visited the *Sportive Syndical Park «Puerta de Hierro»* where they attended two gymnastic demonstrations that impressed the visitors deeply:

— *Physical education for socially unadapted people.*

— *Physical education for blind people.*

The social and humanitarian meaning of these demonstrations was very great:

The juvenil delinquents experienced the pleasure of disciplined effort led with benevolent authority and of being appreciated by others on account of their good performance.

The blind people felt almost like every body else because their deficient sense was compensated by other senses which were developed thanks to methodical physical exercises led with love. As a matter of fact they were more skilful than other people considered as normal but lacking dexterity as a consequence of their sedentary life.

On the 17th September a feminine group of the *National Institute of Physical Education in Portugal*, made a very successful demonstration of gymnastics.

V — Receptions, excursions and other social manifestations

On the 13th September there was a reception at the *Town Hall*.

The Congressmen were received in the stately building by General Ricardo Villalba who made a very cordial address of welcome. Mr. Cagigal thanked him on behalf of the visitors. Then a «Vin d'Honneur» was served.

General Ricardo Villalba is one of the greatest pioneers of rational physical education in *Spain*, specially as a former Director of the *Central School of Physical Education in Toledo* founded by his father, and he organized in *Madrid*, in 1956, an excellent *Latin Congress of Physical Education* patronized by the *F. I. E. P.* of which he is now a Member of Honour.

On the 14th, the Director General of Physical Education offered a dinner party in the beautiful garden Don Cecilio Rodriguez («*Parque del Retiro*») presided over by H. E. the Minister D. Soliz Ruiz. Regional groups sang and danced warmly applauded by all present.

On the 15th was the occasion to visit the «*Valle de los Caidos*» and the *Monastery of Escorial* in a pretty little town near *Madrid* where an excellent lunch was served. Then the congressmen attended and even took part in a *Country Festival*.

Alternating with specialized work, at the *Congress*, this excursion combined deep spiritual aspects with the artistic, historic and, finally, the game-like ones.

The immense Church of the «*Valle de los Caidos*» was built by piercing deeply through a high rocky mountain and is ornamented with magnificent sculptures and paintings.

The *Monastery of Escorial* is one of the greatest monuments in the world and is also filled with artistic richnesses.

At last the Congressmen enjoyed very pleasant moments of relaxation, during the *Country Festival* by playing with young bulls or watching others play, which gave place to spectacular falls and great amusement.

When the Congressmen left the arena a group of Spanish popular dancers delighted them with their folklore.

On the 16th the *Sportive Syndical Park* was visited.

I had already the occasion to refer also to this Organization ⁽¹⁾ that the visitors

(1) *F. I. E. P.* — *Bulletin*, n.º 4, 1965.

went through before attending the mentioned gymnastic demonstrations; they were also offered light refreshments.

On the 17th the *Organizing Committee* of the *Congress* very generously prepared a homage to the President of the *F. I. E. P.* to whom was offered a magnificent piano concert and a banquet. This event is described by the Secretary General Mr. Pierre Seurin together with his report on the *General Assembly* of our Organization.

On the 19th, the day after the closure of the *Congress*, an excursion to the famous city of *Toledo* founded in the VII^e Century by the Wisigoths, took place. Here the Congressmen visited the *Alcazar* and other famous monuments of European history and Art; they were offered also a lunch.

V — The Closing of the Congress

This *Session* took place with the same solemnity as the *Opening Session* and was presided over by Mr. Alexandro Rodriguez de Valcarel representing H. E. the Spanish Chief of State, having beside him, among other already mentioned representative personalities, the Right Hon. P. Noel-Baker President of the *I. C. S. P. E.*

First the President of the *Organizing Committee* of the *Congress* and Director of the *N. I. P. E.* Mr. José Cagigal, spoke to rejoice over the results of a scientific, technical and social order, of the important international meeting which had just come to an end, thanks to the collaboration of very important international and national organizations and numerous specialists.

The President of the *F. I. E. P.* stressed the richness of documentation supplied to the Congressmen in an atmosphere of great cordiality and generosity from the Spanish

Government and people and perfect international understanding. He foresaw a bright future for the *National Institute of Physical Education*.

Prof. Julien Falize, referred likewise to the high value of the work done, to the kind reception of the Spanish people and praised the *Organizing Committee* of the *Congress*.

The Right Hon. P. Noel-Baker, while also praising the *Congress*, enhanced specially the humanitarian aspects of the gymnastic demonstrations made by the socially unadapted and blind people.

Mr. Jaime de San Roman, National Secretary for physical education and sport, regretted again the forced absence of Mr. Eulola Olaso and expressed the satisfaction of his country in having been able to organize such a successful *Congress*.

At last Mr. Rodriguez de Valcarel thanked all congressmen, particularly the international Organizations that collaborated with the *Organizing Committee* in an international meeting that was an example of peace that every body eagerly desires. Then he closed the *Congress* on behalf of H. E. the Spanish Chief of State.

VI — The Spanish Press and the Congress

One of the circumstances which also characterized the *World Congress* in *Madrid* and which I want also to point out, has been the great support given to it by the *Press* of which there was an office at the seat of the meetings.

Newspapers like *ABC*, *Arriba*, *El Alcazar*, *Hoja de Lunes*, *Informaciones*, *Madrid*, *Marca*, *Pueblo*, *Ya*, etc., only to mention the *Press* in the Spanish Capital, followed attentively the work and published detailed and objective chronicles.

La F. I. E. P. a toujours eu l'importante mission de réunir des personnalités marquantes de tous les pays pour des études et une coopération pratique.

La F. I. E. P. fut après la seconde guerre mondiale, une des premières organisations internationales à reprendre la coopération entre les pays, par de nombreux Congrès et autres réunions.