

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

EXEMPLAIRE N° 221
COPY

MF
ENGLISH ONLY
20th November, 1963

NATO RESTRICTED
WORKING PAPER
AC/52-WP(63)41

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

"GAMES OF THE NEW EMERGING FORCES"

Note by the United Kingdom Delegation

"Games of the New Emerging Forces" ("GANEFO") are now taking place in Djakarta from 10th to 22nd November. (The expression "New Emerging Forces" is a favourite term invented by President Sukarno, who has long employed it to refer to the Communist Powers together with those Afro-Asian and other developing countries of which he approves.)

Background

2. Indonesia, a member of the Asian Games Committee which normally has the patronage of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) organized the Fourth Asian Games in Djakarta in 1962. By excluding Representatives of Taiwan and Israel from the Asian Games, however, Indonesia contravened Principle One of the Olympic Games Charter which stipulates that there must be no discrimination against any country or person on grounds of race, religion or politics, and Rule 24 which provides that sportsmen active in the Olympic movement must refrain from working politically. Because of this the IOC patronage was withdrawn and on 7th February this year the IOC decided to suspend Indonesia from membership - in effect to disqualify the country from the 1964 Olympiad in Tokyo.

3. President Sukarno lost little time in conceiving the idea of "GANEFO" as retaliation, and in a broadcast speech of 13th February, after Indonesia's suspension, gave the formal command for the birth of "GANEFO" when he said ".... let us be outside the Olympic Games. Since we remain strong and united and independent, I further command that games of the new emerging forces should be organized as soon as possible."

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Chinese interest

4. The idea of "GANEFO" was taken up enthusiastically by the Chinese who are believed to be giving heavy financial backing both to the Games themselves and in meeting travelling costs of teams from developing countries. To the Chinese the Games clearly offer an attractive vehicle for their efforts to extend their influence in the developing countries. They are also important in the context of current attempts to set up various new Afro-Asian organizations under Chinese control, with the aim of detaching African and Asian countries from Soviet influences and rivalling the Soviet-dominated international front organizations.

Participation

5. Fifth-three countries received invitations to the Games. Those which have accepted so far are: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Ceylon, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the Dominican Republic, the Soviet Zone, Guinea, Hungary, Iraq, Laos, the Lebanon, Mali, North Korea, North Vietnam, Pakistan, the "Palestine Arab Republic", the Philippines, Poland, Roumania, the Somali Republic, the Soviet Union, Syria, the United Arab Republic, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. It is believed that a Japanese group representing student organizations are also to take part.

6. China, which left the Olympic organization in 1956, is sending a team of 238 to Djakarta - the largest sports delegation China has ever sent overseas. According to the People's Daily: "... the Chinese people hold that the Games are useful in strengthening the Asian, African and Latin American peoples' fight against Imperialism and colonialism and in defence of world peace".

7. The Soviet position in relation to "GANEFO" is complicated. Russia has a distinguished Olympic record which it would not wish to jeopardise. On the other hand, the Soviet leaders are undoubtedly anxious to counteract the Sino-Indonesian manoeuvres to set up Afro-Asian organizations under Chinese domination. A compromise has been reached by which the Soviet Union will send "youth teams" to Djakarta - in effect an Olympic reserve side.

Reactions in International Sporting Circles

8. The political motives behind "GANEFO" have caused concern among many of the old established international sporting organizations. The Games have in fact been repudiated by the governing bodies of such organizations as the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) and the International Olympics Federation. As a result, the latter was described as "a powerful tool of Imperialism" by the Indonesian Sports Minister.

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9. The President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Avery Brundage, said: "The IOC has no information about 'GANEFO' and no connection with them. If the Games in Djakarta are not sanctioned by the International Federation, participants will be liable to suspension". The International Federation was more specific and commented: "'GANEFO' is not authorised Participation is forbidden".

10. Several national sports organizations forbade their members to enter "GANEFO". The Japan Amateur Sports Association decreed that Japanese athletes who took part would be expelled from their association. The Philippines Weightlifting and Body Building Association decided against sending competitors.

11. The opposition to "GANEFO" was summed up in the Philippines Examiner in reporting the weightlifters' decision: "The name alone - 'new emerging forces' - rings the bell for the Communists. 'GANEFO' was born out of vengeance ... In retaliation for (its) suspension the Indonesian Government in co-operation with its Communist pals, speedily organized their own sports bloc in order to have a tool for enhancing their political aims. There is no doubt that Indonesia ... is undermining the World Olympics with the end in view of disintegrating this long established and internationally recognised organization dedicated purely to sports ..."

Reconciliation Offered

12. The IOC has now, however, opened the door to possible reconciliation with Indonesia. At its meeting in Baden-Baden on 21st October, the Committee passed the following resolution: "In view of the fact that the 1964 Olympic Games are being celebrated for the first time in the Far East, it would seem more than desirable that all nations of that geographical area in particular should be prepared to participate in them. In order that the Olympic spirit of goodwill may prevail again, the Executive Board is given authority to reinstate the Indonesian Olympic Committee as soon as it shows its willingness to follow the Olympic code. It is hoped that mutual understanding may effect the desired result of Indonesian participation in Tokyo".

13. The demand that Indonesia should show its willingness to "follow the Olympic code" obviously refers to the Olympic ban on discrimination and political activity.

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Paris, XVIe.