

14 Février 68.

M. J. W.B.

No. 75/AL.

JEAN BELLIVIER, GERANT LE CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE A SALISBURY

à

S.E. MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
DIRECTION AFRIQUE-LEVANT

PARIS.

a/s. De la participation de la
Rhodésie aux Jeux Olympiques
de Mexico.

Il y a un mois Monsieur Smith avait accepté la présidence d'honneur d'une association sportive privée qui se propose de réunir à brève échéance les fonds suffisants pour que la Rhodésie envoie à Mexico une équipe.

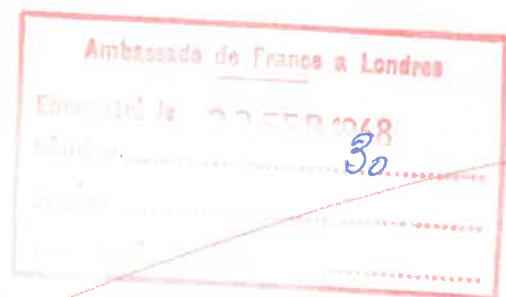
Hier la presse locale a reproduit de larges extraits de l'appel lancé par le Premier Ministre sécessionniste pour que le public rhodésien réponde généreusement aux différentes sollicitations qui seront faites et à cette occasion on note que cet homme politique tire un bon parti de cette prochaine participation en y voyant un pas de plus franchi dans la voie de la reconnaissance.

Communiqué à :

- Londres ✓
- Mexico

On peut donc se demander si la Grande-Bretagne a dans cette affaire accordé, malgré la rébellion, son patronage à la Rhodésie ou bien si le Comité Permanent des Jeux Olympiques n'a pas cru devoir soulever la question, hypothèse peu plausible lorsqu'on voit les objections de principe faites à la venue d'équipes sud-africaines composées exclusivement d'européens./.

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MR. IAN SMITH, the Prime Minister, who a month ago accepted an invitation to become the first member of the Rhodesian Olympic Supporters' Association, an organization formed to further the aims and ideals of the Olympic Games among all sportsmen and women in Rhodesia, has appealed to all Rhodesians to give this venture

their wholehearted support.

Mr. Smith says: "Rhodesia's invitation to the 1968 Games shows that we have been welcomed, in keeping with the Olympic tradition, into the family of sporting nations which pay tribute to the high ideals of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, whose enthusiasm was responsible for the first Olympic Games of modern times in 1896."

Citius altius fortius is the Olympic motto — faster, higher, stronger. "What a wonderful motto and how apt for us in Rhodesia in our fight for recognition of the high

ideals to which Rhodesians have always subscribed," says the Prime Minister.

The Olympic Games cuts across all barriers of politics, colour and creed, adds Mr. Smith, and it is significant that no discrimination is allowed at the Games against any country or person on these grounds.

"In fact, when the original Games took place in ancient Greece, a sacred truce was declared and enforced to permit the competitors to travel unmolested to the Games," continues the Prime Minister.

Rhodesians have always been great sportsmen, striving for perfec-

tion in all fields of sport, he goes on, and the surest way of reaching this goal is to make the most of our invitation to Mexico City this year.

"One of the aims of your Association is to assist our National Olympic Committee to ensure that Rhodesia will be adequately represented there by raising funds for this purpose," concludes Mr. Smith.

Application forms for membership of this association are obtainable from Box 1831, Salisbury. Members will get quarterly newsletters and a handsome metal badge. There are plans for film shows, public sports quizzes and competitions in the national Press.

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