

## UNIVERSAL CHARACTER OF CISM AND ITS ROLE FOR SOCIO-CULTURAL INTEGRATION IN THE SOCIETY

Col(Ret) BONEV (Bulgaria)

From the times of antiquity « phenomenon SPORT » plays exceptional role for the human being to become perfect and for setting up the norms of conducting and relations between individuals, tribes, groups of people and nations.

Very indicative of this exceptional role sport, it's social consideration and effect over millions of people from antiquity till nowadays is Olympic movement. This movement kindles the torch, provokes and stimulates establishment of so many sport organisations in national and international aspects. All these sport organisations contribute in the spirit of Olympus involvement in sport activities millions of people, for their physical and intellectual perfection for expanding the friendship and collaboration between all nations.

One of these organisations, with its indisputable contribution for achievement of these goals is CISM, founded in 1948 and its strategic motto « FRIENDSHIP THROUGH SPORT ».

In less than a year we all we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of our organisation - CISM. For this historical anniversary, here in Bulgaria we shall organise series of gestures.

To realise the motto « Friendship through sport » the military athletes are leading a head of politicians and diplomats.

It is historical fact that in the 80-s, athletes of CISM and SKDA - the two parallel existing organisations for military sport, worked for their integration. This historical fact is, that the two groups of leaders signed a statement for collaboration and alliance on 7th July 1989 in Sofia - Bulgaria. Now in 1997, there are more than 110 nations - members of CISM. This fact must not be forgotten.

What is consisting of the words « universal character » applied to CISM and its role for socio-cultural integration in society, for understanding between nations?

With its structure, goals, tasks and organisation, CISM is the second after IOC about its volume of activities, number of competitions, championships and other actions, with its contribution for development of sport all over the world. Some people say that CISM is the « Military IOC ».

In the last several years, CISM is energising its work to bring closer and co-ordinate its activities with the IOC, international sport federations, and interest of international and national military sports.

Estimating the practicable capabilities of the Armed Forces - as structures, bases and organisation for development of sport and most important - for training of the high level sportsmen in interest of national sport, most of the countries - members of CISM stake on Armed Forces for this. They establish structures, bases and conditions for sport activities not only for military but also for children and youth - a feasible composition for complementation of Armed Forces and the army sport clubs.

The basic army sport structures in most of the countries - members of CISM - a factor to achievement of these goals are:

- a) The united (combined) army sports clubs (societies) and army sport federations, including several or all kinds of Olympic sports.
  - They are formed on administration - territory principle with participation of civilians (young people) in them too.
  - In their structures there are army sport schools (company, unit, outfit) with sportsmen, serving their time as soldiers.
  - Their structures may include a children's school, an estimate reserve to complete representative teams.
  - The independent teams of this structures participate in internal army competitions and championships and the best are included in the national teams, participating in CISM championships.
  
- b) Army sport centres with one or several different sports, in different cities, where the good sportsmen serve their time as soldiers and militaries serving in their location.
  - Their teams participate in international competitions and sometimes the sportsmen participate in competitions self-dependably.
  - The sportsmen of these centres usually are members of national teams and participate in CISM championships and competitions.
  
- c) In countries, in which there are no structures such above mentioned, there are military clubs «sport for all » by the army units.

The sportsmen in these clubs are allowed to participate in civil teams and competitions during their stay in the army.

All these structures for sport activities in the Armed Forces of the member countries are acting in collaboration with civil sport structures. Normally they are open for civilians and mostly for young men and give them free of charge sporting base and specialists, real conditions for the social contacts between army and the society, become the main factor for positive behaviour to Armed Forces.

The other, exceptional factors for the socio-cultural integration in society and understanding between nations are: the large international sporting calendar of CISM and especially - the personal actions and contribution of every CISM-athlete to national and international sport and Olympic movement.

In the most of the countries - the national teams for the Olympic games are more than 50% composed with sportsmen from Armed Forces. Nearly every third medalist of Olympic Games is an athlete of CISM.

To demonstrate this, I draw your attention to CISM - athlete medallists of Winter and Summer Olympic Games in the period 1960 - 1988. These data are not complete, because they are selected from less than one third of CISM-members.

Finalising, I don't think that I am so comprehensive on this so large problem, but I am convinced that we all realise the indisputable role of CISM as an universal organisation for development of sport in the Armed Forces and their socio-cultural integration in the society.

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**CISM SPORTSMEN - MEDALISTS OF OLYMPIC GAMES - 1960-1988**

**WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES**

MEDALS	1960	1964	1968	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	SUMM
	Sqwo Waley	Innsbruck	Grenoble	Sapporo	Innsbruck	Lake Placed	Sarajevo	Calgary	
Gold	2	11	13	19	26	14	23	24	132
Silver		3	3	1	5	19	21	18	70
Bronze		4	3	5	8	11	6	10	56
<b>SUMM</b>	2	18	19	25	39	44	50	52	258

**SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES**

	Rome	Tokyo	Mexico	Munchen	Montreal	Moscow	Los Angelis	Seoul
Gold	21	39	30	55	45	79	9	67
Silver	22	42	40	44	53	70	8	49
Bronze	19	38	47	47	55	98	13	60
<b>SUMM</b>	62	120	117	146	153	247	30	176
<b>TOTAL</b>	73	138	136	171	192	291	80	228
<b>Participants militaries</b>	73	211	347	518	710	1001	1081	1309

Col.(ret.) I.Bonev