

The 1923 Congress was confronted with a number of political problems that were the aftermath of World War I, and a reading of the complete minutes of this Congress is helpful in understanding the problems faced by international sports federations in the 1960's.

It was at this meeting that the suggestion was made to revise the organization (then consisting of a "Congress" and a "Commission") into the "International Ski Federation" (FIS). Statutes of other sports federations were to be looked to for guidance (see Minutes of Seventh International Ski Congress held February 6, 1923, Prague).

Formation of the FIS: The Federation Internationale de Ski was formally founded on February 2, 1924 at the Ski Congress held at Chamonix, France in conjunction with the Winter Olympic Games. At this time, the United States officially became a participating member.

One of the important decisions made was that only one ski association from each country would be recognized and the International Ski Federation would not interfere in matters of domestic character. Regardless of the decision regarding representation by one association, the following countries were represented by two associations: Finland, Czechoslovakia and Austria - but limited to one vote each.

The first President of the FIS was Colonel Ivar Holmquist of Sweden. He served from 1924 to 1934 and, when he retired, his place was filled by Major H. R. Oestgaard of Norway, who served until 1951 when Marc Hodler of Switzerland was elected President.

The National Ski Federation of Canada joined the FIS in 1924. In 1926, Japan also joined the FIS. Australia joined the FIS in 1932. Therefore, the first non-European country to become a member of the FIS was the U. S. A.

Membership of United States Ski Association in FIS: In an article written by Mr. B. G. Leighton in the 1924-25 N. S. A. Year Book, there appears the following:

"The Ski-Mayor of the Ski Capitol of America, Colonel George E. Leach of Minneapolis was selected by the National Ski Association of America, Inc. to manage the United States Ski Team on its trip to the Winter Sports competition of the Olympic Games of Chamonix, France, January 25 to February 5, 1924.

The Mayor officially represented this country and the National Ski Association at the International Ski Congress at Chamonix, on February 5. At this time the National Ski Association was affiliated with the International Ski Congress.

It is expected that this action will eventually result in a complete revision of ski rules, ski methods, and the program of skiing in this country."

In the report of President Oscar Oyaas appearing in the 1924-25 N. S. A. Year Book, he states;

"One notable result of the participation of our team in the Olympic tournament is the subsequent identification of our association with the Congress International de Ski, an organization representing nineteen nations in the Norwegian national winter sport, thus making it not only an American, but a world wide winter sport.

Our representation at the gathering of this international meeting which was held at Chamonix, France in February 1924, and which has permanent headquarters in Paris, was through Mr. Anders Haugen."

NOTE: This is in error - Mr. Leach was the representative.

Alpine Events in the FIS: The Alpine Events for FIS competition were proposed at the Congress held in 1928 at St. Moritz. In 1930, the Congress in Oslo recognized Downhill and Slalom as international competitive events.

Skiing in the Olympic Events: As noted above, the discussion of skiing events being held in connection with the Olympic Games was first discussed in Oslo in 1914, and then after the war the subject was again raised at Stockholm in 1922, and at Prague in 1923, when arrangements were made for the 1924 Winter Olympic Games at Chamonix.

Representations at FIS Congresses: The list of representatives attending FIS Congresses between 1924 and 1946 is not well recorded and is made up from Financial Records of the U. S. Ski Association, and other sources. Any information supplemental to the following would be welcomed.

1924	Chamonix	George E. Leach and Anders Haugen
1930	Oslo	Fred H. Harris
1935		John Hostvedt
1938		Alice Wolfe (Kiaer)
1946	Pau	Roger Langley
1949	Oslo	Roger Langley, Alfred Lindley, Alice Kiaer, William Halsey
1951	Venice	C. T. Hill, Alice Kiaer, J. S. Mullin
1953	Igls	C. T. Hill, Alice Kiaer, Roger Langley, Ed Eaton, John Clair, Sepp Ruschp, Hannes Schneider
1955	Montreaux	C. T. Hill, J. S. Mullin, Gus Raaum, Burton Boyum, Andrea M. Lawrence
1957	Dubrovnik	C. T. Hill, Andrea M. Lawrence, Gus Raaum, Roland Palmedo, A. A. Jones
1959	Stockholm	Sepp Ruschp, J. S. Mullin, Burton Boyum, Gus Raaum, Roland Palmedo, Wendall Broomhall, Martinius Strand, A. A. Jones
1961	Madrid	J. S. Mullin, Gus Raaum, Amos Little, W. Broomhall, B. Nishkian
1963	Athens	J. S. Mullin, Gus Raaum, Amos Little, Al Merrill, B. Nishkian, J. Bulterman
1965	Roumania	J. S. Mullin, B. Nishkian, Amos Little, Gus Raaum, Al Merrill, Jacques Bulterman
1967	Beyrouth	J. S. Mullin, Byron Nishkian, Amos Little, Gus Raaum, Al Merrill