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The Swiss School for Physical Education and Sport of Magglingen

The SSPES is a unique school in our country (and abroad). It is «federal» in the traditionnal sense of this word and also because of its internal administration (even in sport, some bureaucracy is necessary).

Although it is rather far from the cantons of Tessin and Graubünden it is pretty well situated geographically as it is placed near the linguistic boundary, between the German and the French part of Switzerland, on a hill overlooking the Midlands and the Alps, on a marvellous terrace of the Jura. Furthermore who says Magglingen means the SSPES and vice versa.

The SSPES is a polyvalent school: it is a center for the instruction of physical education teachers, of trainers and of instructors of the youth and sport movement; it is a training center and a teaching center for the several sports federations; it is a center of research and application in the field of sports sciences; it maintains a technical and documentary office for the construction of sports grounds; it maintains a federal office dealing with all questions

concerning sport and physical education. Finally two sections complete its activities: the service of information and the administration section.

The position of the SSPES

The SSPES is a service of the Confederation but the Swiss Confederation is not the only proprietor of the SSPES. The main part of the sports facilities is situated on territory belonging to the municipality of Biel placed at the disposal of the Swiss Federation by this city. The SAPE, the parent organisation of the national sports associations, and completely independant of the state, financed several buildings such as gymnasiums, dormitories, tracks and the Research Institute with funds from the Football Pools. The SGA built accomodations for top athletes and a sportsclub union of the Canton of Berne established a house for youth organisations.

The legal status of the sport

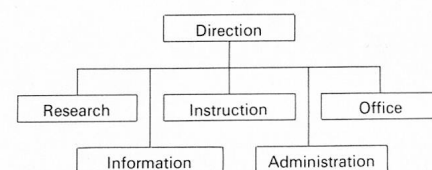
Actually the SSPES is placed under the authority of the Swiss Military Department. It was realised at a time of a national crisis.

The School was developed between 1939 and 1945, i.e. during the Second World War. However, it will probably be placed under the authority of the Department of Interior Affairs.

If there was a period during which sports had to make good soldiers, by now sports has to be promoted mainly for reasons of the health of the population and for its well-being. The legal texts say that the SSPES is an instrument of the Confederation in order to encourage physical education and sports at all levels:

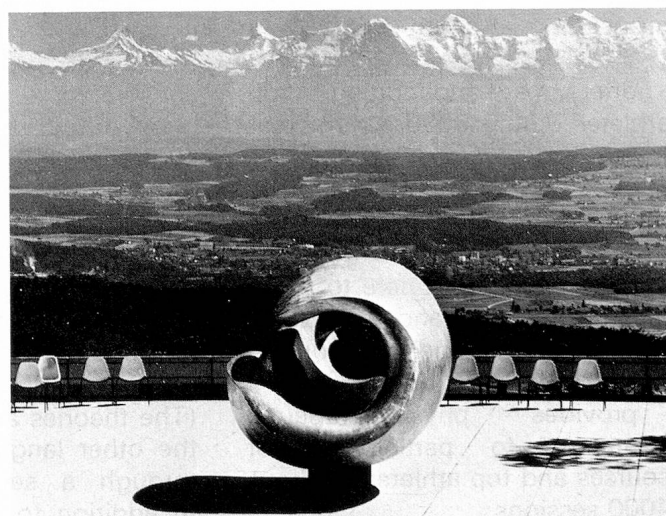
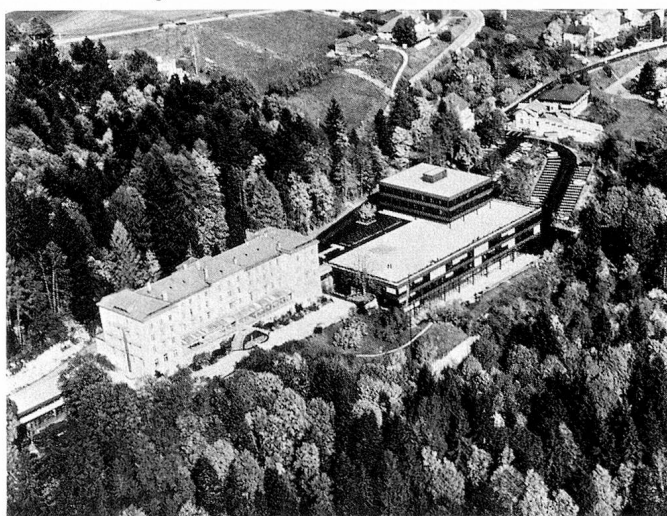
- = public health
- = education
- Sport = free time activity
- = national interest

The structure of the SSPES



Some numbers giving an idea of the extent of the work and tasks to be done by the school of Magg-

View of buildings from the main terrace





lingen shall complete the organization:

The SSPES

- has a staff of 150 persons, foreign seasonal staff included. It consists of physical education teachers, both male and female, medical doctors, scientists, administration and management staff, door keepers, mechanics, workmen, cooks and other kitchen- and office personnel;
- accommodates about 13 000 participants of courses organized by the SSPES (about 3000) and by associations (about 10 000) a year;
- offers board and lodging to top athletes during 9000 days a year free of charge;
- supplies about 60 000 daily rations and 45 000 lodgings per year;
- provides medical care to participants of courses and top athletes in about 1200 medical consultations a year;
- provides physiotherapeutic treatment to participants of courses and top athletes in about 4000 sessions;

- manages a library with about 30 000 titles;
- lends out about 25 000 books, pamphlets and periodicals in and out of the SSPES;
- manages a film office which lends out about 3500 films per year.

Instruction center

Within the different courses organized at the SSPES physical education teachers are formed as well as monitors and experts for the youth and sport movement, coaches and army sports teachers. In addition to these courses there are complementary courses for the physical education teacher students enrolled at the universities. The certificate of a sports teacher of Magglingen is obtained after a two years' course.

Admission conditions: minimum age of 18 years, good general education and knowledge of the German and French languages. (The theories are given in one or the other language), having got through a severe examination. In addition to these courses or-

ganized by the SSPES over 300 courses and camps are organized by several federations. The SSPES places its didactic material at the disposal of these courses and guarantees board and lodging for the participants.

In February 1976 the School inaugurated a 44 m by 88 m indoor stadium which enlarges the possibilities of the SSPES.

Arnoldo Dell'Avo

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