

# PEOPLE-to-PEOPLE SPORTS COMMITTEE Incorporated

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To You: -

For happiness and success Jesus Christ  
taught one pinciple - Love One Another.

Sport is a common interest of all man-  
kind. Hence our work on the People-to-People  
Sports Program.

Our athletes participating in international  
sport can help smooth the way for mutual understanding,  
peace on earth and good will to men.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a  
joyful 1958.

Sincerely yours,

*Eddie Eagan*  
Edward P. F. Eagan



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WHY A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE SPORTS COMMITTEE?

1. To create a greater general awareness among people interested in sports of the tremendous contribution they have to make in resolving the problems of expanding international understanding precedent to any real peace in the world.
  - a. A good sportsman, because he has learned to practice "fair play," has a tremendous potential as a lay-ambassador of good will. One good piece of evidence of this is the article written by Mrs. Betty Schmidt and published in the September issue of THE ARCHERS MAGAZINE under the title, "Six Americans in Prague Win Medals, Hands and Hearts."
  - b. The job which must be done is too big for government along. Besides, government actions are frequently suspected of having some ulterior motive, whereas, where common people exchange mutual interests, the resulting friendship is usually genuine.
  - c. People in other countries appreciate the opportunity of learning how to improve their skills in various sports in which Americans excell. When they improve their skills the recreational value of the activity is enhanced.
  - d. People, the world over, enjoy watching proficiency demonstrated, and we Americans can well use the prestige which goes with such exhibition.
  - e. People abroad, particularly in countries which are just beginning to modernize, really appreciate small donations of equipment -- this being the only way in which they can enjoy our sports -- the equipment is not yet being manufactured in their countries, and dollar exchange regulations prevents them from importing it even if they had the money with which to do so.
  - f. The man on the street abroad doesn't generally recognize the meaning of the millions of dollars which our government has granted his government, but he can understand and does appreciate a few pieces of sports equipment which he can see his children use and enjoy.
  
2. To assist American sportsmen, through the organizations of which they are members, in expanding their international exchanges of sports activities.
  - a. To function as a liaison between individuals and groups wishing to pool their efforts.
  - b. To provide supplemental financial assistance to individuals and groups wishing to participate in international exchange activities but not being quite able to realize them without some help.
  - c. To function as a liaison between government and sportsmen in realizing the most effective international exchange activities possible. (Time and place are frequently important.)
  - d. To develop adequate, yet practical, orientation for sports delegations going abroad or visiting here.
  - e. To assist in the establishment of counter-part People-to-People organizations abroad.



3. To conduct international sports exchange activities which no other organization is prepared to undertake---e.g. an exhibit of American sports at the Brussels Worlds Fair in 1958.
4. Although not specific functions of the People-to-People Sports Committee, there are two beneficial by-products which may reasonably be expected:
  - a. An improvement in the physical fitness of our youth. In all probability the prospect of a trip abroad, providing he or she develops proficiency in some sport, will induce many of our young people to spend more leisure in some physical activity and less watching TV westerns or who-done-its.
  - b. This expanded interest in sports will provide a larger number of men and women from whom can be chosen those who will represent the U.S. in the Olympic Games. This, together with the increased experience these people will have in international competition in the four year intervals between Olympic Games should make for a better showing on the part of American athletes.
5. Officials of the Soviet Union understand the value of sports exchanges with the free world, and are out-distancing us 15--1, according to the latest available statistics.
6. The billions we spend for defense to deter others from attacking us are spent principally to buy time while peaceful ideas take hold. Consequently, the sooner we get the People-to-People Movement under way, the better --- not only for us, but for the world.
7. As President Eisenhower phrased it: "If our American ideology is eventually to win out in the struggle being waged between opposing ways of life, it must have the active support of thousands of independent private groups and institutions and millions of individual Americans acting through person-to-person communication in foreign lands."
8. Seventy-five nationally organized sports organizations have already identified themselves with the People-to-People Sports Movement by designating members to serve on our committee. What is needed now are funds with which to secure further identification, a staff to serve all concerned, and funds with which to carry out specific projects which they, individually, cannot handle successfully.
9. If it is true, as has been said, that wars in the past were won on the playing fields of England, is it too great a dream to believe that peace can be won through the interchange of sportsmanship around the world?