



Svenska Budoförbundet

THE SWEDISH BUDO FEDERATION

L'UNION SUÉDOISE DE BUDO

Idrottens Hus
123 87 FARSTA
Sweden

KENDOSEKTIONEN

To:
The European Kendo Federation
Mr A. Ducarme, general secretary
4, Rue du Busard
1170 BRUXELLES Belgium

April 1, 1984

Re: the Kendo organization in Italy

Dear Sirs,

I appologize for the delay of this my letter, which is partly due to the unhappy routes of your correspondence with us: please observe that all mail to the Swedish Kendo organization should be sent to the above address. And partly my delay comes from the fact that I have already expressed the views of our board in this question, which was done in my letter to Mr Harris of January 25 this year. Has it not reached him? It is an unfortunate thing that this issue should be of so much concern and take our valuable time from progressive work for European Kendo. Anyway, in answer to your request, I once again express the Swedish board's view:

The EKF is an organization for comfortable multilateral cooperation in Kendo, as is the IKF. Thus, it is of uttermost importance to be quite aware of what issues belong to these boards and what issues do not. Questions of exclusive national interest are absolutely not to be brought up on neither board's agenda, or this would be an action of violation of every nations supremacy within its borders. To be able to discuss the Italian situation - especially in a way of this magnitude - either board must have extremely good and solid reasons. We have not found this to be the case.

Instead, quite vague and generalizing arguments are brought forward and given an emphasis they do not in any way justify. Such matters as size, quality of training and degree of cooperativity are not, in the uncertain way they are presented, reasons for at all discussing AIK:s right to represent Italy in EKF.

Should there be reports, proof of definite misconducts by AIK, then there might be grounds for such a discussion. Or should there be firm reason to suspect that AIK in no way can be said to represent Italy, wherein this must be argued and confirmed by relevant Italian voices - preferrably of a higher national dignity than merely another Kendo organization. If the latter is in any way applicable, if FIS is really a larger and more widespread organization, I cannot see why regular parliamentary procedures have not already solved the problem. In any democratic system, the majority is decisive, is it not? And I do not question the parliamentary correctness of Italian athletic movement.

This is a serious question indeed, not only in the trouble this must cause for Kendo in Italy, but even more in the serious misconduct this might lead EKF and IKF to perform. We must understand the important basic principles for multilateral cooperation, where the respect for every member nation's integrity probably tops the list. Only if there is firm proof and reason, should AIK:s membership in EKF and IKF at all be discussed. We have not yet seen such proof. The complaints of FIS should be forwarded to AIK for their handling. Any other decision is cause for severe reevaluations as to our membership in these organizations, which we hope not to need to go through.

Sincerely,

SWEDISH BUDO FEDERATION, Kendo Section
Stefan Stenudd, chairman