

Kyriakides Campaigns For Greek Olympic Fund

By TOM MONAHAN

If it's sun you want, go to Greece. For Stylianos Kyriakides, the Greek marathoner, has returned to Boston with a letter claiming that his home in Athens has seen no rain since late January. But the 1946 BAA Marathon champion is not in town to discuss the weather. His native Greece is troubled by clouds other than rain, and Kyriakides is back once again on another mission of petition.

BAA WAS

SECONDARY

When Kyriakides arrived in the states last March, he expected his visit to be far different from that of a year ago. Then, the prime purpose of his long voyage was to solicit aid for a Greece that was struggling in the depths of war recovery. And the running of the BAA marathon was a secondary consideration.

This time (so he thought) he was here only to run the 26 miles 385 yards from Hopkinton to Boston, and it was his intention to return immediately to his wife and family in Athens. The Greek Olympic committee had other plans, however. And, before Kyriakides could complete arrangements for his trip home, he was handed the commission of soliciting funds and equipment that might be used to outfit and outfit a group of athletes to represent Greece in the 1948 Olympics at London.

At the office of the Greek Consulate yesterday, Kyriakides told his story. And, to hear him tell it, it was almost pathetic to think that the country which gave birth to the Olympics faces the possibility of exclusion from next year's London games for want of so little.

GOAL SET AT \$50,000

"A goal of \$50,000 in cash and equipment has been set by the Olympic Committee in Greece," revealed Kyriakides. "That's not much when it is spread over the entire country. But it is enough to insure the participation of a Greek team at London. And that is all we want."

"When I say team, I don't mean a team of three or four hundred athletes. I mean only 30 or 40. And yet Greece cannot afford to spend the money to prepare even that small a unit. The money must be spent on more important things and that is why we must depend solely on outside aid."

He went on to say that the situation is so bad in Greece right now that it is impossible even to hold a track and field meet for the lack of equipment.

NEED ALL KINDS OF EQUIPMENT

"We have no hurdles, no discus, no javelins, no shoes," he explained, "and we do not even have shirts and pants for the boys. For this reason,

every contribution, no matter how small, is vitally important."

But Kyriakides is not interested exclusively in track equipment. Equipment of all kinds are needed desperately from basketballs and sneakers to boxing gloves. And this equipment doesn't have to be new.

"We need," continued Kyriakides, "that even here the situation with new athletic supplies is not at its best. But there must be some old equipment in the storerooms of the local high schools and colleges that will not be used again. And even in the attics and cellars of the homes. It is this kind of used and second-hand equipment that we would greatly appreciate and an old pair of shoes or sneakers or an old shirt will be more than welcome."

"It takes only five or six such contributions to outfit one athlete and when that is multiplied many times we will have our team equipped in no time."

TO START WITH MEETING WEDNESDAY

To start the ball rolling on his local program, Kyriakides plans to hold a meeting next Wednesday night at 8 o'clock at the Greek Cathedral on Ruggles and Parker streets, Boston. All contributions of equipment may be sent to the Cathedral at any time, however, and they will be arranged for shipment to Greece.

Momentary contributions, however, will not be handled by Kyriakides. Instead, if sent to the Bank of Athens Trust Co. or the Hellenic Bank Trust Co., both of New York, such contributions will be applied directly to an account open for the Greek Olympic Committee.

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