Government's role in the internationalization process of a sport - a study of two cases

**Work concentrates on the reasons and demands behind a successful internationalization of a sport and government's role behind the success. Two cases in this study are Judo and Taekwondo. They both are oriental martial arts which have become to a sport. Governments have been supporting both of the studied cases. How that support has been done and how it has been helping the sports to become international sports are the main issues of this research.**

The method used in the research is called understanding explaining. It is qualitative, explaining and partly empirical. The main part of the knowledge comes from the interviews made during March 27th, 1997 and March 24th, 1998.

Nationalism is one main issue in the framework of the study. Nationalism and it's connections to the sports have also been taken under closer surveillance in this work. Nationalism in sports is a very important issue to understand before the actions of the governments within the sports studied are presented. After the framework both of the studied sports histories are introduced and then the comparison of the cases is made. Last part of the work concentrates to the benefits for the government from supporting the sports and after this few conclusions are made.

As a result of the study, a new model to picture the development of the internationalization process - Seven Step -model - is introduced. The role of the government in both cases is clearly seen. The connection to the daily international politics of the countries studied is also pointed out.