

JOURNÉE OLYMPIQUE MONDIALE

My dear Friends!

We have come here today to celebrate the Olympic Day of the World.

During this month thousands of young men and women are gathered in different cities to express their interest in the Olympic Movement and the development of physical culture. The originator of the Olympic Movement was the great enthusiast Pierre de Coubertin. He understood that the nations needed a counter balance to the unwholesome influence of work in factories and life in cramped quarters. I will therefore today recall the message that de Coubertin sent to the youth of the world twenty years ago when we visited Olympia in Greece.

He said that his friends and he had not worked with the restoration of the Olympic Games in order to make them an object for a museum or a cinema show. Nor was it his wish that mercantile or political interests should influence them. The object in renovating an institution 2500 years old was that the youth of the world should become new adepts of the religion of Sports in the same way as conceived by their great ancestors. In this modern world, so full of powerful possibilities and yet threatened by perilous degeneration, the Olympic Movement can be a school of moral nobility and purity as well as of endurance and physical energy. But, so will be the case only if the youth always elevate their conception of honour and unselfishness in sport to the same height as they develop their muscular strength. The future depends upon the youth.

May we all follow the wise guidance of the originator of the Olympic Movement!