

M. J. S. EDSTROM'S speech held at the closing ceremony of the London Games.

*Dear friends in England and in countries over the seas.*

*The Olympic Games of London 1948 are now coming to an end. I extend thanks to all those who have participated. 58 nations were here. At the last Olympic Games 50 nations took part, thus 10 new nations have been added. Both great and small nations have received Olympic honours. 6000 Athletes met here and in accordance with their Olympic oath they fought nobly and with honour. They competed with the highest efforts they could muster, but in spite of the fight they remained friends. Ties of brotherhood and friendship have been formed, not only on the field of competition, but also in the various Olympic villages. These ties will always remain.*

*The Olympic Games cannot enforce peace, to which all humanity aspires, but it gives the opportunity to all the youth of the world to find out that all men on earth are brothers. Thus the Games help to obtain peace, particularly if you consider that the young men who have competed here today, will one day become leaders of their nations.*

*In the Olympic Games one is striving for the highest result in each sport, one does it of one's own free will, not in order to obtain monetary advantages. We exercise our sport not only for the joy we obtain and for the physical advantages it gives us, but also to improve the physical health of our nation. To attain this goal all the youth of the world must unite.*