

## **Speech of Mr. Körner**

*Mayor of Vienna*

Mr. Bundeskanzler,  
Mr. President of the International Olympic  
Committee,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!

In my capacity as Mayor of Vienna and on behalf of the Municipality and the people of Vienna I have the honour to welcome the International Olympic Committee and the representatives for the International Sports Federations here in Vienna. I see around the room a brilliant international society giving me the pleasure of visiting the modest House of the Mayor of Vienna. We are highly honoured by the holding of the International Olympic Meeting in Vienna and we are particularly happy that the Members of the Committee expressed by this manifestation their sympathy and friendship to our town.

You know all, Ladies and Gentlemen, how much Vienna, this old city rich in tradition and culture, suffered during the last war. Nevertheless Vienna has since 1945 proved again that it is one of the most important cultural centers of Europe. The people of Vienna — not only a people of musicians and fond of good life — has courageously struggled against all difficulties of life and has been giving evidence of its tremendous will for life, its optimism and its new faith in the future. I dare say, Vienna is indeed a City of reconstruction and social progress.

This town furthermore has been blessed by nature with a cosmopolitan spirit and the love for freedom and peace. This may be one of the reasons why the people of Vienna is so much fond of sports. The spirit of sport is a free spirit, liking all kinds

of noble competition. The sport — the foreign teams coming to Austria, I mean — established in 1945 our first friendly contact with other nations. We are convinced of the great value of sports not only as a matter of individual health and pleasure but as a matter of collective mission. Sport nowadays can make a greater contribution to peace in the world than any other organization. Sport can abolish any frontier between nations and promote mutual understanding. Vienna, by destiny mediator between North and South, East and West will greatly contribute to this beautiful aim.

I learned with pleasure that the International Olympic Committee has in view to organize the Winter Olympic Games of 1960 in Austria. This would be a great honour for our country. I hope that Europe and the whole world will overcome all difficulties and problems which are to-day a heavy burden on the human conscience.

I wish the meeting of the International Olympic Committee all possible success and I trust that you will find your stay in Vienna both enjoyable and productive.

The Olympic flambeau be symbol for all men of good will to preserve peace and sure welfare.