

**Remarks of Welcome by Avery Brundage at dinner given by him to the Ladies and Gentlemen of the I. O. C. attending the Primeros Juegos Deportivos Panamericanos at Buenos Aires, March 3, 1951**

It is a pleasure to greet you this evening here in the Argentine at this, the first gathering of I. O. C. members, I believe, in South American or for that matter in the Southern Hemisphere. I am glad that we have a few Europeans with us (Count Alberto and Countess Marizo Bonacossa, and Jean Ketseas) and I am only sorry that the plan to have a full meeting of the Committee did not materialize. I regret this not only because it has deprived us of the presence of the other members but also because they will not be able to see with their own eyes how amateur sport in Latin America has developed in the last generation, culminating in this wonderful festival which we are now attending.

The man who is most responsible for this development no doubt, is our former President and great leader, the Count Baillet-Latour, whose visit to South America twenty-five or thirty years ago stimulated interest in the Olympic movement on this continent. I lift my glass to his memory. It was he who chose most of the Latin American members of the Committee and what excellent choices he made, for these men have been fine representatives, who have maintained Olympic prestige at a high level. We have as an honor guest here tonight, the oldest of that group, D<sup>r</sup> Ricardo Aldao, who only a year ago retired and became our first honorary member. A renowned international figure, leader in his profession, loved by all, he has been for more than a generation a bulwark of strength for amateur sport and the Olympic movement, not only in the Argentine but in all Latin America. I remember well his remark when he escorted me through the Club Gimnasia y Esgrima, which he founded, some ten years ago and I expressed my amazement at that wonderful institution and its facilities, unsurpassed in any other part of

the world: « Not so bad for 10 000 miles from civilization » he answered dryly. I am sure you are all as happy as I am to find him so young in spirit and alert as ever, the grand old man of Latin American sport. May he have many more years of health and happiness.

I am sure also you all want to join me in thanking our other Argentine colleague, Horacio Bustos Moron and his charming Maria Cristina for their generous hospitality and for the many courtesies extended to us here.

Unfortunately, since the visit of President Baillet Latour, which I referred to, there has been little attention paid to Latin American sport by our Committee and in only a few countries are there members of the I. O. C. The distances from the headquarters of the I. O. C. and the Amateur Sport Federations in Europe are very great and contacts are few and far between. Guidance is needed, badly needed, and we of the I. O. C. must furnish it. We need more members in Latin America, members of the calibre of those chosen by Baillet Latour twenty-five years ago. It will be good for the I. O. C. and good for Latin America.

Whether in South America, in North America, in Europe or in Africa, whether South or North of the equator, in whatever land, in whatever season, regardless of language difficulties, I. O. C. gatherings are marked by a goodfellowship, a bonhomie — that is rare in this materialistic world in which we live. This unique fraternity of sport I think is due to the fact that sportsmen want nothing from each other — they seek to give and not to take — they are held together by devotion to a common ideal. Again we see a demonstration of this here in Buenos Aires and I thank you all for honoring this little dinner with your presence.

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