

Last presidential speech

delivered by Mr. J. S. Edström, on the occasion of the Ceremony of Transfer of Powers to the new President.

Mon Repos, Lausanne, Aug. 14th., 1952.

When P. de Coubertin took the initiative of restoring the Olympic Games, little did he guess that by so doing, he was opening the way to the creation of a far reaching movement which was to spread all over the world. Nowadays the youth of all nations aspires to take part in the Olympic Games. At Helsinki, seventy one nations participated to the Games with about 8000

athletes and officials. All these competitors intermingled in a brotherly spirit without distinction of nationality, race or political ideology.

At an early date, de Coubertin gave his first thought to the choice of the city which would become the seat of this new movement. Athens claimed this honour also Paris and various other cities but de Coubertin

wisely chose a city situated in a neutral country. Lausanne was chosen and the Municipality of this city kindly offered a home to the I.O.C. in the property of Mon Repos. Lausanne has been our headquarters for a long time, let us hope that it will remain so for ever.

Mr., Mayor, Messrs. Town Councillors, please allow me to express in the name of the I.O.C. our heartiest thanks for the kindness and the valuable help you have given us in the past. At our Helsinki Session we had the pleasure of welcoming the delegation who presented the candidature of Lausanne for the Games of 1960. The attribution will be decided at our Session in Paris in 1955. I sincerely trust that your city will be chosen for the Celebrations of the Games.

In view of my old age, I took the decision, years ago, to resign my functions as President of the I.O.C., immediately after the Helsinki Games. It was also my wish to tender my resignation in Lausanne, the I.O.C.'s home and headquarters. I am therefore very pleased that you have invited us, my successor and I as well as a few members of the I.O.C., to visit you in order to attend this Ceremony. I wish to express to my colleagues and all the friends of the Olympic Movement my gratitude for all the

time I was in office. I could not have carried out my task successfully without their valuable support.

At the Helsinki Session, a new President has been elected. Our former Vice-President Mr. A. Brundage who has become my successor. This election is very appropriate because of the fact that all the former Presidents have been Europeans. Now we have elected a President who belongs to another continent of the Western hemisphere. This comes to show that the Olympic Movement has become an International Movement. This conception was already acknowledged when in Rome, we decided to attribute the 1956 Games to Melbourne in Australia.

From another point of view, Mr. Brundage's election shows a remarkable feature: it is the first time that a competitor in the Olympic Games has been made President. As a matter of fact Mr. Brundage participated in the Stockholm Games in 1912.

I am glad that he is present here today to relieve me of my great responsibilities of President. I am now handing him the key which symbolizes the duties and responsibilities which he is now assuming. May he keep this Olympic Key preciously and discharge his difficult task with wisdom, patience and fortitude.