

Let us continue to be a stronghold against evil and poultry political intrigue, let us continue to be a fortress of human conduct, of tolerance and understanding, let us continue to be a citadel of incontestable sporting competence, let us endeavour to make this Session of the International Olympic Committee a big success. A success which will be a guarantee for the further development of the Olympic Movement, for its brilliant future. And with unshaken and unshakable confidence in this movement under the competent and friendly leadership of our distinguished President, let us carry on !

*Speech*  
*given by General V. Stoitcheff*

*on the occasion of the Solemn Opening Ceremony  
of the 53d. Session in Sofia  
September 22nd. 1957*

Mr. President of the International Olympic Committee,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all happy and delighted witnesses of the tremendous development and the permanent increase of the Olympic movement in all countries, large and small alike. And I think we are quite right to be cheerful and to rejoice at this development and at this resurrection of the games of antiquity and of the whole atmosphere connected with them. For I am convinced that certainly no aspect of human activity could be more fit for paving the way towards understanding and friendship between the peoples all over the world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In every human heart burns the holy light of brotherhood and peace. The flame of Olympia and the emblem of the five circles are predestinated to maintain this light throughout the ages, to maintain it in spite of temporary darkenings, in spite of passing aberrations. And we, Mr. President and dear colleagues of the International Olympic Committee, we have to be proud, to be the standard bearers of this Olympic emblem, the torch bearers of this unextinguishable Olympic flame. Let us carry on.