
Solemn opening ceremony of the
55th Session of the International Olympic Committee

Munich, May 23d 1959

Address by the Prime Minister of the Bavarian State Government

DR. HANNS SEIDEL

*Mr. President
Ladies and Gentlemen*

In the name of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the Bavarian State Government I am extending my greetings to the members of the International Olympic Committee, the delegates of the international sports Federations, the Organizing Committees from Rome and Squaw Valley, the delegates of the seven cities applying to act as hosts for the Olympic Games 1964, the members of our National Olympic Committee and all other friends of the Olympic idea assembled here today. At the same time I have been asked to convey to you the heartiest greetings of Professor Dr. Theodor Heuss, our Federal President.

All of us in Germany, Bavaria and in Munich who are devoted to sports and gymnastics are taking it as a great honour that the International Olympic Committee has followed the invitation of our Bavarian capital and has convened its 55th Session to Munich.

Your conference is endowed with an international character and your resolutions, with the help of modern means of communication, will immediately circle the globe. The considerable interest shown in all parts of the world for the Olympic idea should render us confident because the Olympic ideal allows for no room for suspicion and enmity. The large community of the Olympic sport can be a brilliant example to all people of good will. It is the wish of all of us that there should be created in other fields of life the same good and trustful relation as already exists among the sportsmen of all countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Anyone interested in your work from the point of view of political responsibility and accepting as I have done with great appreciation the invitation to this celebration is thereby not only fulfilling a duty imposed upon him by virtue of his office. It is rather to express thanks for your work and to ask you not to slacken in your efforts in spite of any opposition which might occur.

With these thanks I combine the sincere wish for a good and successful progress of your meeting in Bavaria's capital. Munich is considered a city of culture and art ; but Munich is also known as a place of light-heartedness and joie de vivre. I hope that the character and the hospitality of this city, and the charm and scenic beauty of our Bavarian countryside will impart impressions and experiences which will be pleasant and stimulating. To put it briefly : Let yourselves be enchanted and enthralled by the charm of Munich and its surroundings.

I hereby have the honour to declare the 55th Session of the International Olympic Committee in Munich open.