

Address by the President of the National Olympic Committee of Germany

**DR. KARL RITTER
VON HALT**

Prime Minister

Ministers of the Bavarian State Government

President of the International Olympic Committee

Lord Mayor

Dear Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

In the name of German sport and of the National Olympic Committee I extend to you all a very hearty welcome. The International Olympic Committee is holding its 55th Session in the Bavarian capital. To you, my comrades in sports, as bearers of the Olympic idea I extend my warmest personal greeting and I am happy to see that almost all colleagues have been able to answer the call to Munich, and many of them with their wives.

My special greetings go to our honoured president, Mr. Avery Brundage, my old friend and decathlon comrade of the Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912. With his usual enthusiasm he will preside over the meetings of the International Olympic Committee and I wish him all the very best in this handling of the discussion of the many important points.

The Munich session is gaining special importance on account of two of the 32 points of the agenda. First of all, we will be informed about the final state of the preparations for the Olympic Winter Games in Squaw Valley in 1960, and secondly, we shall gain an insight into the remarkable measures of preparation for the Olympic Games in Rome. Only a few days ago, the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee was given occasion to inspect all buildings in Rome and to see for themselves the marvellous organization of the Games. Even today we can safely predict that the Olympiad in Rome will be an unprecedented experience. The Olympic Games right in the heart of the historical setting of Rome, what an inspiring thought! The presidents and their cooperators for the Games taking place during the next year are present here today. I extend to them my warmest greetings!

A second point is of importance. At this session the cities will be selected where the Games of 1964 are to take place. Applying for the Summer Games are the cities of Brussels, Detroit, Tokyo, and Vienna; for the Winter Games, the cities of Calgary, Innsbruck, and Lahti.

We shall have to examine these applications very conscientiously. May our selection prove just and correct so that success will be guaranteed for the Games in 1964.

The representatives of the seven cities, together with the delegates of their competent National Committees are with us. To them I also extend my hearty welcome.

Last but not least I greet the presidents and delegates of the International Sports Federations, who will be present during the deliberations on the list of the seven cities expecting to act as hosts for the Olympic Games. They will furthermore discuss the Olympic programme and other technical questions with the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee.

The International Sports Press is also represented by numerous representatives and my greetings are for them too.

For the Olympic family it is a source of special joy that you, Prime-Minister Dr. Seidel, have honoured us with your presence and that you will declare the Session opened.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We shall do our utmost to render your sojourn in Munich as agreeable as possible. We intend showing you some of the beauties and places of interest of Munich, the city of art; we also want to let you view

our Alpine Highlands, and we shall conclude our meeting by a trip on the 'Romantic Highway', finishing up in Rothenburg on the Tauber. In this enchanting mediaeval town we shall part with the hope that we meet again in Squaw Valley and Rome during the Olympic Year in 1960.

I wish you all a most happy and pleasant sojourn in Bavaria and the best of success to our various meetings.

