

## Correspondence

### A letter of URSS to the Mr. Avery Brundage

Moscow, May 31st, 1960

Dear Mr. Brundage,

When we met in Squaw Valley I already had an opportunity to express to you my opinion concerning an article *Why America Can't Win the 1960 Olympics* by Irving Jaffee.

It is hard to say what prevails in the article - malignity and desire to lead the readers astray or deliberate distortion of facts.

The Soviet athletes treat the Olympic Games not 'as a major battle in the Cold War' but as an international forum for dissemination of the noble Olympic ideas of peace and consolidation of friendship between the nations. They have earned sympathy and respect of foreign athletes and sport lovers by their sportsmanlike behaviour during the contests, by establishing relations of comradeship and amity with all the participants to the Olympic Games. Therefore it is unnecessary to dwell any more on this author's assertion which plays into the hands of enemies of international co-operation in sports and assists by itself in kindling 'Cold War' in the Olympic Movement. As far as the U.S.S.R. sport organizations are concerned, they have been pursuing and will pursue in future the line of expansion of international sport contacts and support of the Olympic ideals of peace and friendship.

The author was greatly saddened by the fact that communists draft 'athletes from

every walk of Russian life'. Yes, it is so, indeed, and we are proud that 23 million people from all walks of life — workers and pupils, collective farmers and employees, students and pensioners — practise nowadays physical culture and sports in this country. They are not only provided, at no cost, with the sport equipment, but also with help of experienced coaches, with thousands of stadiums, swimming pools, gymnasia and sport grounds.

The Soviet Government, trade unions and other social organizations render big substance aid in development of physical culture and sport. All these conditions cannot but yield good results and every unbiased man must understand quite clearly that it is always possible to select among nearly two dozen million people a sufficient number of athletes of international class who are able to compete successfully at the Olympic Games, too.

An answer to the question of amateurism in Soviet sport should be looked for in the first instance in that physical culture and sports is of so mass a character in this country. *There are simply no conditions for existence of professionalism* in Soviet sport of which you, Mr. President, might be convinced yourself during your visit to the Soviet Union.

Incessantly growing living standard of the population, *cutting down in working hours and consequently increase of time for recreation*, provision of excellent facilities for practising

physical culture and sports result in that while working at industrial enterprises, collective farms and offices going to schools and colleges, Soviet people can afford spending enough time to make their health stronger and have all possibilities to reach the heights of sporting skill.

Best of them are encouraged, *not with money* or giving well paid jobs and luxurious flats but with awarding medals, diplomas, souvenirs and honorary titles of Master and Honoured Master of Sports of the U.S.S.R. There is no doubt that all that will lead to further growth in number of those who practise physical culture and sports in this country, advance in their sporting skill and to new victories in international competitions. Thus, a considerable contribution will be made to international sport movement as well.

I believe that I need not speak in particular about other assertions of the author of the article. I only wish to express my regret that such and similar articles from time to time appear in the Western press. One thing is clear: their authors make it their thankless task to discredit Soviet athletes in the eyes of their readers. But they will not succeed in it because lies have short legs.

‘Sincerely yours

*K. Andrianov*’

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