

59th SESSION IN MOSCOW

From June 5th to 8th 1962

Speeches given at the Opening Ceremony at the Kremlin

Speech by Mr. K. Andrianov

Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Olympic Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Comrades,

Meetings of the International Olympic Committee are always important events in public life and in the international sports movement. Today the sports organizations of the Soviet Union have the honour of playing host to the leaders of world sport, and

it gives me great joy to welcome, on behalf of the U.S.S.R. Olympic Committee, the members of the International Olympic Committee and all who have come here for the opening of its 59th session.

In a comparatively brief period of history—in less than seventy years—the Olympic movement has developed on a world scale,

and today the International Olympic Committee unites athletes in one hundred countries. It would be in place to recall that, in 1894, when this organization was conceived on the initiative of Pierre de Coubertin, it received support in a few countries, and among its founders, among the fathers of the International Olympic Committee were representatives of our Homeland.

Soviet athletes, like athletes in other countries, value and respect the International Olympic Committee for its fruitful work to promote sport, to strengthen the bonds among athletes of all continents, to disseminate the Olympic ideals, the ideals of friendship and healthy competition.

We appreciate the contribution made by the Olympic Committee in the organization of the Olympic Games — wonderful festivals of young athletes — in which the representatives of Soviet sport have appeared on three occasions.

Soviet sports organizations, which are affiliated to more than 40 international organizations, appreciate the beneficial influence of the International Olympic Committee upon the activities of international sports associations.

Of late, the International Olympic Committee has been taking action to safeguard the sports movement from the interference of those quarters which are seeking to use sport for the purposes of the 'cold war'. We wish to declare that, in this struggle, the International Olympic Committee will continue to have the support of all athletes in our country.

May I once again cordially greet the leaders of the Olympic movement, all our dear guests, and wish them fruitful work and a pleasant stay in our country.

Long live the lofty Olympic ideals — the ideals of friendship and peace!

Thank you.