

Speech by Mr. Y.D. Mashin

Chairman of the Central Council of the Union of Sports Societies and Organizations of the U.S.S.R.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Esteemed members of the International Olympic Committee and foreign guests,
Dear Comrades,

On behalf of Soviet athletes I wish to convey sincere and heartfelt greetings to the delegates and guests at the 59th Session of the International Olympic Committee.

The attention of athletes and the wide sporting public of the world is on the session of the International Olympic Committee which is opening today in one of the palaces of the Kremlin, which is so dear to us.

Gentlemen, you will discuss and take important decisions on many problems of the present-day Olympic movement. I wish you success in your work, the aim of which is to facilitate the implementation of the Olympic ideals and to promote world sport.

Soviet athletes are young participants in the Olympic movement: they made their first appearance ten years ago at the 15th Olympic Games in Helsinki. The athletes of our country were satisfied with their initial results and by the experience they had gained in friendly contests.

The excellently organized Olympic Games in Melbourne and in Rome enabled our athletes to consolidate their position and make fresh advances.

We have become convinced that the Olympic Games are a wonderful school of athletic skill, a means of uniting young people of all

countries and cementing friendship and fraternity.

Soviet athletes wholeheartedly share the general desire to make the Olympic Games a really mass and widely representative festival of the young athletes of the world, a festival of all types of sport.

With athletes of other countries affiliated to the International Olympic Committee the athletes of the Soviet Union are seeking to do everything to ensure that the Olympic torch illuminates the friendship of the younger generation, that the Olympic banner remains aloft and the Olympic Games are broadened and strengthened.

Young men and women in all countries are looking forward with great joy to new contests at the 1964 Olympic Games at Innsbruck and Tokyo. The representatives of the Austrian and the Japanese Olympic Committees are here and we wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to extend our best wishes for the successful preparation and organization of the forthcoming Olympics.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are happy to have you here and we trust that your stay in Moscow will give you a chance to see the life of our country, the peaceloving Soviet people and Soviet athletes.

The physical training movement in the U.S.S.R. is a truly mass movement — sports facilities are available to all.

Our organized sports movement covers 30 million factory and office workers, collective

farmers and students. Like the whole of the people, Soviet athletes devote all their strength and abilities to the prosperity of our dear country. Sport and work, sport and health, sport and recreation — in our society these concepts are indivisible. Sport is an instrument for moulding a new man with high moral standards. Sport has become the loyal companion and friend of the Soviet people.

It is not accidental that our wonderful space pilots Yuri Gagarin and Herman Titov are excellent athletes who hold the title of merited master of sport of the U.S.S.R.

In response to the solicitude displayed by the people, the sports organizations of our country are planning to draw 50 million Soviet people into active sport by the end of 1965. Ahead of us is the worthy, task of making physical training part and parcel of the life of the people, a daily requirement of every individual and every family.

We are proud of the fact that our sport has produced such outstanding athletes as Olympic champions Viktor Chukarin, Vladimir Kuts, Yuri Vlasov, Boris Shakhlin, Larissa Latynina, Irina and Tamara Press,

Piotr Bolotnikov, Igor Novikov, Viktor Kapitonov and many, many others.

In his message to the contestants in the XVIIIth Olympic Games, Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., emphasized that meetings between athletes of different countries helped to bring peoples closer together and thus played an important part in the consolidation of world peace.

The international contacts of Soviet sports organizations are growing year by year. Last year alone our country was visited by some 500 sports groups from other countries and more than 450 Soviet teams made trips to meet their friends in other countries.

From this lofty rostrum, Soviet athletes declare that they are the sincere and loyal friends of all the athletes of the world, are true to the noble Olympic ideals.

Long live the fraternal friendship of athletes of the world!

Long live the International Olympic movement!

Long live world peace!