

RESTATEMENT

In our precedent edition No. 80 we published, page 46, only the beginning of the speech given at the Moscow Session by Mr. L.I. Brezhnev, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. Owing

to a very regrettable error, all the second part of that speech was missing. We do apologize very sincerely for that mistake. To restate things, we publish the complete speech hereby (*Ed.*)

Moscow Session

Speech by Mr. L. I. Brezhnev

Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Comrades,

On behalf of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics I cordially greet the members of the International Olympic Committee, the representatives of the organizing committees of the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo and Innsbruck and all foreign and Soviet guests attending the opening of the 59th session of the International Olympic Committee.

Soviet people regard the opening of this session in the capital of the Soviet Union — Moscow — as recognition of the contribution made by athletes of our country and their organizations to the international Olympic movement. It is a great pleasure for us.

One of the main aims of the Olympic movement is to promote the development of people's wonderful physical and moral qualities.

On the banner of the social system under which millions of Soviet people live and work, daily performing splendid deeds in all spheres of human endeavour, are words which, although simple, are permeated with the great ideals of humanism: 'Everything for the sake of man, for the benefit of man.'

It is for the sake of man and for the benefit of man that new towns, industrial enterprises, powerful electric stations, and canals are being built on the vast territory of our country and huge tracts of arable land developed for the needs of agriculture.

It is for the sake of man and for the benefit of man that we are continually improving the people's working and living conditions, that educational and cultural standards are being raised. Soviet science, culture and technology are progressing rapidly and the life of the Soviet people is becoming fuller and happier.

The Soviet state has assumed responsibility for the protection and constant improvement of the health of the entire population of the country. The 220 million-strong population of the Soviet Union is engaged in building a new social system in the U.S.S.R., one of the major tasks of which is the harmonious development of all the physical and spiritual abilities of the people. We consider the encouragement of all types

of mass sport and physical training an important means for achieving this goal. The physical training of the younger generation, and of all people, and the development of physical training and sport are a truly nation-wide cause in the Soviet Union, one to which the state and mass organizations pay constant attention.

This is why the idea of the Olympic movement — to facilitate the development of the finest physical qualities in people — is not only dear and understandable to us but is successfully implemented in practice in Soviet society.

The Olympic Charter adopted by the International Olympic Committee expresses the desire of athletes throughout the world to promote the development of confidence and good will among nations, and the creation of a better and more peaceful world. These fine ideals are particularly dear to athletes and all people in our country.

A lasting peace, full equality, mutual understanding and confidence among all states, regardless of differences in social system — this is the general line of our foreign policy, which corresponds to the deep-rooted convictions of all Soviet people. Therefore the appeal of the International Olympic Committee for the consolidation of peace and international co-operation, like its work to organize major friendly meetings of athletes of all continents — the Olympic Games — enjoys the greatest appreciation and support in the Soviet Union, 'The Olympic Games', Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev, head of the Soviet Government, emphasized, 'are a fine tradition in international sport movement. The Olympic torch kindles in the hearts of people the spirit of comradeship, urges them to take part in honourable competition, facilitates the strengthening of peace and understanding'.

May I wish the International Olympic Committee and all its members fresh success in the wonderful cause of putting the Olympic ideals into practice, in the organization of the Olympic Games, and in their transformation into mass festivals of friendship of joyful, peace-loving youth of the whole world, free of any discrimination.

I have the honour to declare the 59th session of the International Olympic Committee open.