

The 63rd session of the International Olympic Committee in Madrid

In organizing the session of the International Olympic Committee in Madrid in October, the Spanish Olympic Committee showed that rigorous efficiency — one of the watchwords of our time — and exquisite courtesy — a refinement slowly disappearing — are in no way incompatible, and to such a degree that our gratitude, like our pleasure, is in full measure.

Whether it was a question of entertainments arranged for delegates' hours of relaxation or facilities made available for them, one felt that people of quality had studied these matters for long hours. And so we were enabled, despite the too short time we had at our disposal, to grasp, appreciate and admire a little of all that is and makes Spain. Madrid, where beats the young heart of an ancient nation, that jewel, the Plaza Mayor, and the Prado, temple dedicated to European pictorial genius ; Toledo (that a considerate mayor had illuminated for us), its austere beauty and history ; the Castilian countryside with its soft light and hard earth — how it must be loved by those born there ! — the Escorial, majestic and severe ; the moving flamenco, the colour of the folk dances, the already immortal music of Turina, Rodrigo and Falla ; the bull fight, that typically latin spectacle, suited only to hot-blooded people ; and so many other things so generously offered. All this we saw, after meetings as busy as the lengthy minutes prove, thanks to the rhythm of Spanish life that prolongs the day by shortening the night ! All this we saw, thanks to our hosts who put hospitality amongst the cardinal virtues.

We express here our infinite gratitude to the Head of the Spanish State, for the honour he paid the International Olympic Committee by opening its 63rd session, for his kind words on that occasion as well as at the reception which followed ; to the mayor of Madrid, to the Duke of Alba and to Mr. Pedro de Gandarias y Urquijo ; to the member of the International Olympic Committee for Spain and to his wife, Baron and Baroness de Güell ; and finally to the members of the Spanish Olympic Committee, especially to its president, Mr. Jose Antonio Elola-Olaso, its vice-president, Mr. Juan Samaranch, its secretary general, Mr. Jaime de San Roman, who worked so diligently to make unique, because so perfect, the souvenir we shall always have of our Olympic stay in Spain.