

creation of a peaceful society of sovereign nations; whilst the principle of supranationality encounters even more frequent and severe obstacles, the world-wide society of sport has long before, and with immense success, affirmed its noble principles. In this City of Rome, which tradition and experience has made so profoundly aware of its universal nature, the International Olympic Committee is once more celebrating one of its most important sessions. On behalf of all the illustrious personalities here present, I would like to express my profound gratitude for the honour done them today in St. Peter's church. Sincerely impressed by the words devoted to sports activities during the Vatican II Ecumenical Council, now successfully concluded, and recalling also the messages conveyed to the I.O.C. by former Popes Saint Pius X, Pius XII and John XXIII, the members of the International Olympic Committee pledge themselves to continue to pursue with all their strength and with faith intact, the purposes which a man rich in heart and spirit, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, set before young people the world over at the end of the last century.



speech by president Avery Brundage

*Holy Father,
I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity of introducing to Your Holiness the members of the International Olympic Committee, meeting at Rome for its 64th Session.*

The International Olympic Committee, following the revival of the Olympic Games, which in a brief period of time have already come to constitute world-famous events, has devoted itself to the cause of peace and concord. The men you see gathered here are all convinced that mutual knowledge leads to the respect and love of one's neighbour. They have established and jealously maintain the principle of universal hospitality, considering every man their brother, whatever his nationality, race or religion. They do not possess material arms, and do not know the meaning of violence; their arms are understanding, brotherhood and respect of human dignity.

Whilst international law encounters difficulties in the