

Inaugural speech of H.I.M. the Shahanshah Aryamehr



It gives me great pleasure to welcome to Iran the members of the International Olympic Committee and the representatives of the Organizing Committees of the 1968 Olympic Games.

Iran has traditionally been a land of athletes throughout the ages and we have, therefore, always applauded the Olympic Movement and all that it has stood for. It has continually been our firm conviction that international sports gatherings are one of the most effective and assured means of promoting universal understanding and goodwill. The athletes who represent their respective countries on these occasions, contribute a great deal to fostering a better understanding among

the peoples and nations of the globe and to helping them move towards closer cooperation and harmony in the interests of world peace.

We on our part feel that the true meaning and spirit of sportsmanship are embodied in the lofty ideals and aims of the Olympic Games, which have always encouraged the view that while the greatest applause may be reserved for the winners, that which is essential is the act of participating in the competition, whether as a winner or not. May these aims continue to flourish.

I do hereby declare open the 65th session of the International Olympic Committee and extend warm wishes for the success of its deliberations.