

**Mr. Serguei Pavlov,**  
*President of the USSR  
Olympic Committee*



*... I would like, in this connection, to draw your attention to some aspects of the organisation of physical training in our country... This system is coupled with making use of achievements in this field, accumulated by other countries, with creative assimilation of the best from the past and accumulating the very rich experience of the large scale physical culture movement from the very first steps made by the Soviet power. In our country in general, the tasks of building up the health of the country's citizens and raising their creative and labour activities are being solved successfully by means of physical culture and sport.*

*These tasks are performed with the aid of two forms of organisation—state and public.*

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*As for the state form of the organisation of physical training, it envisages obligatory programmes for physical culture and sports "ABC" in pre-school child-care institutions and in all educational establishments, and also systematic physical culture and sports training in the Armed Forces, in medical*

and disease prevention institutions, and within the system of industrial and rural enterprises. I shall not cite here the figures that show the state's contribution to this system, even though these figures are quite impressive. I shall only list some of the governmental organs that give attention and the means to physical training in accord with the Soviet law.

The Ministry of Education, for example, and its local organs in all cities and Republics organise health-building and educational work in the field of sport in creches, kindergartens, secondary schools and teachers' training institutes. The Ministry of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education fulfills a vast programme of physical training and health-building work among students. The Ministry of Public Health also does much work in the mother and child care centres, sanatoriums, polyclinics, hospitals, in kinetherapy centres, at specialised disease prevention centres, and at medical schools and institutes. The same goes for the Ministry of Housing Development, which helps to organise physical culture activities in the population's residential areas. The institutions of the Ministry of Culture popularise sport at Houses of Culture and clubs in town and country.

But, probably, the biggest and most impressive amount of physical culture and health-building work in its scale and effectiveness is organised by the branch ministries and departments at industrial enterprises, offices and research institutes, beginning with our so-called production daily dozen—a health-building physical culture intermission during the working day—and all the way to setting up sports and health building camps and organising hikes, competitions, sports festivals, physical culture parties, etc.

A broad network of gymnastics' instructors and other specialists, employed by the organisations of ministries and departments makes it possible to provide the special personnel for this work which produces such visible results—particularly the continuity and consecutiveness in building up the people's health and in raising their creative ability.

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Another main form of physical training is the social-independent one. It is performed on a voluntary basis and its chief and most massive elements are the physical culture collectives. At present over 200,000 such collectives are functioning in the country, in which more than 52,000,000 urban and country residents are improving their health and are going in for sports. In keeping with the Fundamentals of Soviet Law the trade unions, youth and cooperative organisations, voluntary sports societies, as well as departmental sports organisations help to strengthen these collectives, by setting up and developing sports centres, providing sports facilities and equipment to these collectives and by organising large scale health-building and sports work.

The activities of the public institutions, of course, substantially adds to the state forms of organising physical training and helps to draw more people to regular sports activities.

Our State Committee on Physical Culture and Sport under the USSR Council of Ministers (URSS Sport Committee) is the organ which supervises the physical training and co-ordinates the activities of all the interested state institutions, and which acts in close contact with public organisations...

The new, 10th Five-Year Economic Development Plan, approved recently by the 25th CPSU Congress, provides for the further strengthening of the foundation of large scale sport. Soviet laws impose special demands on the town constructors, in accord with which every residential quarter must have a stadium, a gym, a swimming pool and courts for games. Large allocations are made for building sports facilities in the countryside. At the same time the enterprises and educational establishments will be equipped, at the expense of the trade unions and other public organisations...

Realising that going in for physical culture and sport has a great influence upon man's moral image, the Soviet sports organisations are guided—beginning with the first lessons at school and all the way to training in the best sports clubs and the country's national teams—by the need for fostering in man the morally high and aesthetic qualities and will-power that are needed in life...

*We strive-already at the first physical culture lessons for children, at first training sessions at kindergartens and later on in all forms of physical culture work-to develop in people honesty and truthfulness, simplicity and modesty, a humane attitude to one's comrades and rivals, collectivism and mutual assistance, an irreconcilable attitude to injustice and snobbery and a diligent approach to one's work. In sports media-both children's and adults'-rivalry, egoism and violence are being condemned...*

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*I would hardly be discovering the truth if I declare that the mass media has acquired in our time a tremendous significance for the moulding of a young man and for developing his character, but the same, of course, holds true for influencing an already developed character. This has a bearing in full measure, as well as on the aims of physical training.*

*Our country rises up together with the daily dozen signal on the radio. Doing the daily dozen to radio had become a wonderful charge of energy for the whole day, nearly from the very first years of Soviet power. Our country now also can get to know sports activities through TV. Radio, TV, the cinema and other arts and, finally, sports press, in other words all these means of cultural influence upon man are firmly entering physical culture, and sport, on its part, has an influence on all of these types of art and mass media, generating new forms of man's social activities.*

*The theatrical gymnastic festivals, TV tournaments in different sports events, the competitions of entire families in special TV shows-all that fosters in the TV viewer a feeling of beauty, arouses his intellect and makes him emulate the strong, noble, agile and brave sportsmen.*

*The TV and radio broadcasts, the press and the cinema not only feed vast information to many million-strong audiences, but also generate a definite approach to the different aspects of physical culture, mould opinions and evaluations, in other words they have a big psychological influence. The same holds true, to some extent, for sports literature, especially the books which des-*

*cribe the characters of stars of world sport. The vivid convincing examples from the lives of famous sportsmen make these books especially important in the pedagogical work on "designing the personality".*

*We have arrived at this conclusion by analysing our own experience and attentively studying similar experiences in other countries...*

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*The experience of sports contacts and of co-operation which we have shared here shows that the Olympic ideals of noble rivalry, friendly association and strengthening of relations may be implemented not only once every four years at the Olympic Games. We share the ideas expressed by Mr. M'Bow about the moral, esthetical impact of sport. Unfortunately bitter it may be, but we must declare that if at the Olympics both the sportsmen and their tutors really abide by the spirit of the Olympic Charter and make millions of fans admire their beautiful, courageous and, at the same time, ethically very pure and noble competition, then outside the Olympics at times we witness the so-called "explosion of nationalism" at football grandstands; the manifestations of ambitiousness and hullabaloo at international competitions, and the atmosphere of unhealthy competition, which, of course, has a bad influence, above all, on children and on young people. There are also quite a few examples when sport becomes a means of ruthless exploitation of the personality, of making money and of corruption.*

*The sports world expects from us practical deeds, aimed at the strengthening of co-operation among countries. We are obliged to do this also by our responsibility to our peoples for the development of sport, for its further progress. Let us be worthy of so honourable a mission. Let us join our forces, knowledge and energy for the all-round development of sport, in the name of man's health, in the name of peace and security on earth.*

S. P.