

7th Spartakiad



The flag of the Seventh People's Games of the USSR, the Spartakiad, will be hoisted over the main sports arena of the V. I. Lenin Central Stadium in Moscow in July, 1979. Fanfares will herald the opening of one of the largest competitions not only in the history of Soviet, but also world sports.

What are the People's Games of the USSR ? These are one of the most significant events in the Soviet physical culture and sports movement, a really popular, nationwide

festival of physical culture and sports, the testimony of the flourishing athletic talents of all nationalities and peoples inhabiting the Soviet Union.

The development of physical culture and sport holds one of the top places on the list of state measures aimed at strengthening the health of the Soviet people. *"Physical culture and sport have a great role to play in developing harmonious men and they help people to preserve good health and creative*

energy for many years. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Government show constant concern for the development of the athletic movement in this country and are seeking to make physical culture a part of the daily life of the Soviet people", said Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in his message to the members of the International Olympic Committee, the Organising Committee and the participants of the Games of the XXIst Olympiad.

In the USSR there are now 3,000 large stadia seating a total of 11.4 million, more than 66,000 gymnasia, about 1,400 swimming pools and more than 600,000 different types of sports grounds.

Athletes practise sports under the instruction of 52,100 skilled trainers, 125,500



*by Nikolai
Kurdjukov,
former Secretary
General
of the USSR NOC*

physical culture teachers from general educational schools and 9,000 from vocational schools. More than 6 million trainers and instructors work voluntarily. Doctors keep an eye on the health of athletes and gymnasts. In our country there are 356 health centres for athletes and more than 1,800 medical check-up rooms.

The Spartakiad is an all-round competition of athletes and includes all Olympic sports, in addition to a number of sports which are popular in the country. The Spartakiads are held once every four years : in winter for winter sports and in summer for summer ones so that their final tournaments should be held in the year preceding the Olympic Games and should be the main stage of picking the national team.

Preparation

The Spartakiads start in sports clubs, a year or two before the finals, when millions of sport lovers compete ; they then continue in districts, towns, regions and republics. Athletes who show the best results get the right to participate in teams of their union republics, and also of the cities of Moscow and Leningrad in the final competitions of the Spartakiad.

The Seventh Summer People's Games of the USSR to be held in 1979 give rise to profound interest in our country and far beyond it. The first stage of the 7th Spartakiad has already begun. Its highlight will certainly be the finals in July 1979 in Moscow and other towns of the country.

The 7th Spartakiad is characterised by many distinctive and remarkable features. Above all, they are to be held before the 1980 Olympic Games which are to be staged in Moscow exactly one year afterwards. For the first time the Spartakiads will draw a large group of foreign athletes who are to account for a fifth of the total number of finalists. Many competitions of the People's Games will be held at the same sites which are intended for the Olympic competitions.

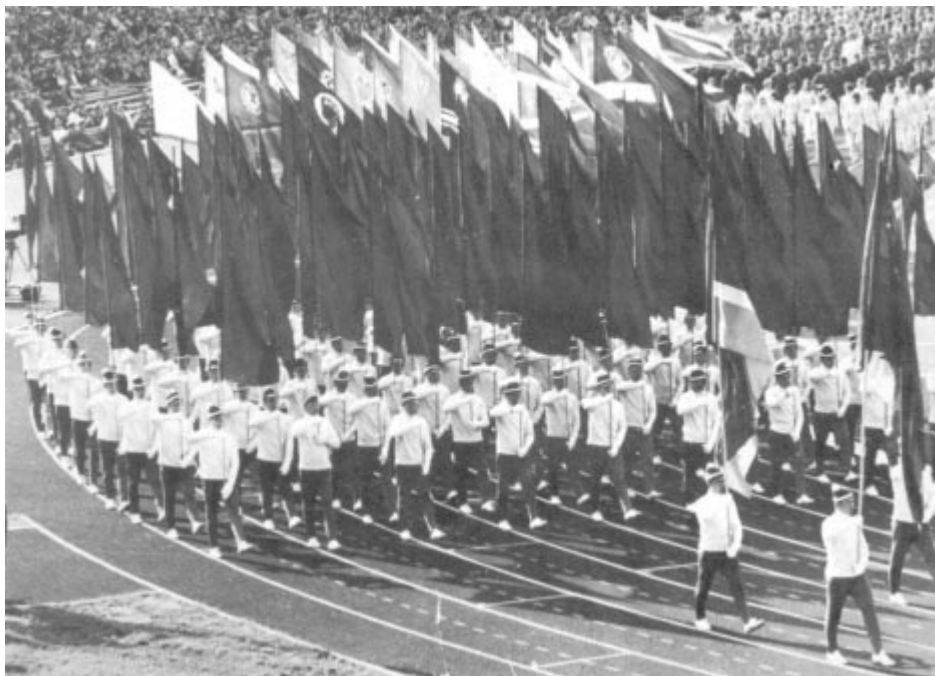
First foreign participation

About 8,000 Soviet athletes and 2,000 foreign guests will appear in the finals of the 7th Summer People's Games.

We expect to invite athletes from almost 100 countries of all five continents. There can be no doubt that all the world's top athletes will be willing to appear in the competitions of the 1979 Spartakiad.

The programme of the Spartakiad includes most of the Olympic sports : basketball, boxing, free-style wrestling, Greco-Roman wrestling, judo, track cycling, road cycling, water polo, volleyball, gymnastics, rowing, canoeing, athletics, swimming, diving, handball, modern pentathlon, archery, rapidfire pistol shooting, skeet shooting, weightlifting and fencing ; both Soviet and foreign entrants will appear in all these Olympic sports. The following seven sports will attract only Soviet athletes : football, lawn hockey, sambo-wrestling, equestrian sports, callisthenics, tennis and chess.

Invitations will be sent out to foreign athletes through National Olympic Committees, na-



tional sports federations or other sports organisations of the countries. This will take place late in 1978.

Thus, for the first time ever the People's Games of the USSR have overstepped the national boundaries. This takes place under the impact of the approaching 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. The People's Games will provide an excellent opportunity for would-be Olympians to measure swords with rivals and to give themselves the opportunity of changing training methods if necessary. Thus the Spartakiad will be held shortly before the 1980 Olympic Games. As usual, the opening and closing ceremonies for the People's Games will be held. In 1979 these colourful ceremonies will take place in Moscow.

Intensive Olympic construction is now under way in Moscow and the existing sports structures are being streamlined. Already now it is clear that many of these sports arenas will be commissioned in time for the next Spartakiad.

During the 7th Spartakiad participants will be able to get acquainted with cultural accomplishments of the Soviet people and

the museums of Moscow as well as to meet renowned workers in art, music and literature. They will be able to see many interesting exhibitions and theatres, circuses and concert halls will be at their disposal.

The competitions of the People's Games of the USSR will be televised for the millions of viewers in many countries and will be widely covered by the press and radio.

* *

The organisers of the 7th Spartakiad are confident that the spirit of good will, internationalism and friendship combined with the thrilling sporting spirit will create the atmosphere that will prevail a year later in the Olympic Games in Moscow.

We say "Welcome to the People's Games of the USSR".

N. K

