

## *Address made by the President of the IOC to students at the Railway Training School in Nairobi, Kenya, 11th February 1981*

### **Olympic Movement**

As President of the International Olympic Committee I am very pleased to have this opportunity of addressing a few words to you, representing as you do the youth of Nairobi, the youth of Kenya.

A few months ago I had the honour to be elected President of this great Olympic movement. Since then I have endeavoured to visit as many countries as possible as I sincerely believe this to be the best way to get to know all of you better and to assist you in solving your problems.

Your lives are just beginning and here you are meeting together because of the ideals of sporting activities. Allow me to assure you that this path you have chosen is the right one.

At your age there is nothing that can make you happier than to take part in sports, to make friends, to compete with others in the right spirit, to know how to win and to know how to lose.

The spirit of the Olympic Games is the highest point in sport. Born many centuries ago in Greece, it was renewed at the end of the last century by Baron de Coubertin, who was responsible for the restoration of the Olympic Games of the modern era. Since that new beginning the Games have been held nineteen times.

In the Olympic Games what really counts is not so much the spectacular winning of medals, which Kenyan athletes have done so magnificently, but rather, as far as I am concerned, that every four years the youth of the whole world comes together without any discrimination of race, religion or politics.

Young people from all over the world spend time living together and getting to know one another and coming also to the very important realisation that there is absolutely no reason why men should not all understand and comprehend one another.



*The President addressing students at the Railway Training School in Nairobi.*

No reason really why we should have to come to confrontations which bring so much suffering to so many homes.

The spirit of the Olympics is indeed the opposite of confrontation ; it is the desire of living in peace, the desire of a healthy life, the desire of a better world.

Youth of Kenya, I salute you in the name of the International Olympic Committee. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the warm and friendly reception you have given me and I pray that in the not too distant future you may be able to compete in our great Olympic Games.

J. A. S.

