

## DISCOURS

*prononcés à l'occasion de l'ouverture solennelle de la session du C. I. O. à Londres*

THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD BURGHLEY  
(Chairman of the Organising Committee) introducing the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, the Rt. Hon. Philip Noel-Baker, M. P. said :

*It is my privilege to introduce to you the Secretary of States for Commonwealth Relations, Mr Noel-Baker, and to ask him to declare our Congress open. The International Olympic Committee has met on many occasions over the past year and has made many far reaching decisions, but I should think that this Congress is probably one of the most important that we have had for many years. Today we are going to discuss the whole question of the rules, they are to be revised, because, after all, in an organisation like ours the eyes of sport from every corner of the world are on us and it is essential that we should be well founded on good and up to date rules.*

*I now come to the question of the Opening Ceremony. Many of us have already known the Secretary of States for Commonwealth Relations for many years, but under the name of Philip. I would like to say how delighted we are that he has taken the time off out of his very busy life to come and open our Congress this morning; there is no more appropriate person than he. As you know not only has he reached positions of the highest responsibility in political life but in addition to that he is one of the finest runners that we have ever produced in this country. (Applause) He was second in the 1500 metres in the first Games after and a finalist in the year before the First World War.*

*There is another side of him about which you probably do not know so well and that is the interest he has taken over our athletes since he has retired. He has put far more back into sport than he ever took out of it. I know in 1928 I owed my success to him above all others. If any of you have been athletes you know not only have you to be fit but you have got to be in the right frame of mind. So often we have seen splendid runners who have failed because their mentality was not right. For getting someone's mentality right there is no better person than Philip. He came into the changing room at the Amsterdam Games, and he was with me in the Village, calming me down. We do need calming down. He came there calming me and building up my confidence, because we do need our confidence built up, and I do owe him a special debt of gratitude for that.*

*There is another reason why there is no one more appropriate than he to open the Congress in London. When we asked for the Games to take place in London we still had to deal with the housing question. If it had not been for him I do not know how we would have got on. He was then at the head of the Air Ministry and with his enthusiasm he managed to get us all these villages and camps, and as I have already said without them I do not know what we would have done, towards housing the competitors.*

*Bearing all these things in mind, therefore, I would like to tell him how delighted we are that he has come here today because there is no one more appropriate than he who could possibly have been asked, and if gives me great pleasure to ask him to declare our Congress open. (Applause)*

THE RIGHT HON. PHILIP NOEL-BAKER,  
M. P. (Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations) in Opening the Congress said :

*I must begin by saying « Thank you » to Lord Burghley; he has brought back one happy memory to me particularly that of feeding sugar to him twenty minutes before he went out to the final of the 400 metres hurdles at Amsterdam. I never was able to do much really for his state of mind because if over there was a born fighter it is David Burghley, and if the Olympic movement wins through, as I am certain it will do, it will be largely due to the fighting spirit which he shows and with which he has inspired so many of his colleagues. Mr President, it is perhaps the greatest honour I have ever had to declare open the present session of the International Olympic Committee.*

*On behalf of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, and as I believe of the whole people of these Islands too, I thank you for the honour which you did us in your choice of London, and bid you welcome to our battered city. We express our warmest wishes for your great success and we hope that you will find the arrangements made for the Games adequate to all your needs. We hope that your teams will be adequately housed and not inadequately fed; that the contests will be conducted as efficiently as you desire; that the sun may go on shining; and that the public will be as generous to your teams as the teams will be to each other.*

*I have seen enough, already of your young men and women in their training camps to know that the greatest of the Olympic traditions, the friendship of the teams, will be amply and honourably maintained.*

*We have done our best to make the material conditions as good as they can be but if there are shortcomings, and there will be some, I beg you to remember that we are battling our way through the aftermath of War. If we can put the shortcomings right, tell us and we will make every effort in our power. I say that with authority from the Prime Minister who has authorised me to tell every Government Department to help in every way they can. Not only the British Organising Committee, not only the Government, but the whole British people are united in their support of the Olympic movement. They believe that it should be, that it can be, a potent factor in the physical and in the spiritual regeneration of the world. They believe that the old Hellenic concept of the Games is still of value to modern mankind.*

*In Ancient Greece the Games were held for more than 1000 years. They made the Greeks a race of athletes; they drew to Olympia from all parts of Greece a mighty concourse more than 40000 strong. The Games did much to form the Hellenic way of life. Pindar the poet, in his Olympic hymns, explains the philosophy that lay behind it. Life is made up of difficulties to be faced and overcome, any danger, and difficulty, must be faced and beaten. Long training, self discipline, self sacrifice, are needed for success. The reward of victory if not a money prize, it is a crown of alive leaves cut from a sacred tree.*

therefore that the memory of these Olympic Games in London in 1948 will in the future stand out as a torch visible over the whole world. These Games will electrify the nations, put new energy into the war-tired world and help us to bring forth a better clan of humanity. (Applause.)

The proceedings terminated with a programme of music.

The Olympic Hymn « Non Nobis Domino » was played by Mr. Frederick Grinke (violin) accompanied by Mr. Wilfrid Parry (Pianoforte).

#### TRADUCTION FRANÇAISE DU DISCOURS DE M. J. S. EDSTROM.

*Excellences, M. le Ministre, Mesdames et Messieurs, Au nom du Comité international olympique, je tiens à vous exprimer nos sincères remerciements pour la chaleureuse réception qui nous est réservée à Londres. Je remercie également les précédents orateurs pour leurs paroles encourageantes. J'aimerais tout spécialement témoigner ma profonde gratitude à M. Noel-Baker pour l'intérêt qu'il porte au Mouvement olympique. Il peut en parler par expérience. Il comprend la satisfaction de l'athlète qui, après son exercice, jouit d'une vitalité plus profonde.*

*Après la seconde guerre mondiale, la première session du Comité international olympique eut lieu à Lausanne en 1946. A cette occasion le lord maire de Londres proposa la célébration des Jeux olympiques 1948 en cette ville. Ce ne fut pas la première fois que Londres contribua au succès du Mouvement olympique. En 1908, il fut décidé que les Jeux olympiques auraient lieu à Rome; mais deux ans avant l'ouverture de ces Jeux, Rome déclara qu'elle ne pouvait pas en assurer l'organisation. Londres, alors, exprima le désir d'en prendre la responsabilité, et dans la courte période de deux ans, elle organisa, ici, des Jeux splendides, dont la plus grande part se déroula dans le stade appelé « The White City ».*

*Cette fois-ci les Jeux olympiques furent aussi organisés en un temps record, soit en 18 mois environ. Que d'initiative, de travail et d'endurance déployés, afin de rendre possible notre rencontre aujourd'hui, et de trouver une organisation qui, je l'espère, satisfera tout le monde.*

*Au nom du Comité international olympique, des comités nationaux olympiques du monde et des fédérations internationales sportives, aussi bien qu'au nom des dirigeants sportifs et de la jeunesse groupée à Londres, j'exprime ma plus profonde gratitude aux autorités de la ville de Londres, au*

*Comité olympique britannique et à son Comité d'organisation, pour la splendide préparation qu'ils ont menée à bien pour faire de cette XIV<sup>e</sup> Olympiade une parfaite réussite.*

*Seuls des vrais amateurs peuvent participer aux Jeux olympiques. Déjà Pierre de Coubertin a eu des difficultés avec ce problème, et en dépit de la décision prise lors de la session à Stockholm, l'année dernière, la question de l'amateurisme fait toujours l'objet de nombreuses discussions. C'est donc une grande joie, pour nous sportifs amateurs, de prendre part aux Jeux olympiques en Angleterre. L'Angleterre est le berceau de l'amateurisme pur. Cette nation a compris la pensée de Coubertin: « L'important aux Jeux olympiques n'est pas d'y gagner, mais d'y prendre part; car l'essentiel n'est pas tant de conquérir que de bien lutter. » Nous sommes tous venus ici pour participer aux Jeux olympiques. La victoire comblera notre joie et nous féliciterons le vainqueur en cas de défaite; mais nous sommes tous heureux de pouvoir assister à ces XIV<sup>es</sup> Jeux olympiques à Londres.*

*L'Angleterre est la première nation au monde à avoir compris l'importance du sport moderne pour le développement de sa jeunesse. C'est dans ce pays que de Coubertin prit l'initiative de rénover les Jeux. C'est là aussi qu'il réalisa l'union des nations par le sport. Je me plais à constater que nous pouvons toujours compter sur nos amis anglais afin de lutter pour le Mouvement et la Flamme olympiques.*

*Ces fours prochains 6.000 athlètes de 56 nations du monde se rencontreront dans une lutte amicale et sportive. Ces athlètes se côtoieront dans le Village olympique. Ils se rencontreront aussi bien durant les exercices préparatoires, que finalement dans des compétitions sur le stade. Ils apprendront à se connaître. Ils échangeront leurs idées sur différents problèmes et, au cours de leurs discussions, noueront une amitié durable. Je suis donc persuadé que ces Jeux olympiques 1948 de Londres resteront un souvenir vivant dans toutes les mémoires. Ces Jeux galvaniseront les nations et donneront au monde fatigué de la guerre une énergie nouvelle, pour le plus grand bien de l'humanité.*

M. J. S. EDSTROM'S speech held at the closing ceremony of the London Games.

*Dear friends in England and in countries over the seas.*

*The Olympic Games of London 1948 are now coming to an end. I extend thanks to all those who have participated. 58 nations were here. At the last Olympic Games 50 nations took part, thus 10 new nations have been added. Both great and small nations have received Olympic honours. 6000 Athletes met here and in accordance with their Olympic oath they fought nobly and with honour. They competed with the highest efforts they could muster, but in spite of the fight they remained friends. Ties of brotherhood and friendship have been formed, not only on the field of competition, but also in the various Olympic villages. These ties will always remain.*

*The Olympic Games cannot enforce peace, to which all humanity aspires, but it gives the opportunity to all the youth of the world to find out that all men on earth are brothers. Thus the Games help to obtain peace, particularly if you consider that the young men who have competed here today, will one day become leaders of their nations.*

*In the Olympic Games one is striving for the highest result in each sport, one does it of one's own free will, not in order to obtain monetary advantages. We exercise our sport not only for the joy we obtain and for the physical advantages it gives us, but also to improve the physical health of our nation. To attain this goal all the youth of the world must unite.*

### *Hygiène sportive*

*L'athlète éprouve une soif d'air. Il en résulte que la première loi de l'hygiène sportive est une loi d'aération des locaux. Dès qu'il s'agit d'un sport ne pouvant avoir lieu en plein air, nul local ne peut satisfaire pleinement aux conditions désirables s'il demeure clos pendant l'exercice.*

P. DE C.