

ADDRESS BY Mr. EPAM. PETRALIAS
President of the International Olympic Academy

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as President of the International Olympic Academy and on behalf of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, I would like to express to the distinguished members of the I.O.C., the I.O.C. Commission for the I.O.A. and National Olympic Committees, to the lecturers and participants, my satisfaction and joy for their eager and dedicated contribution to the success of this session which was one of the best sessions we ever had. Truly, the 13th Session had the greatest attendance than all previous sessions and the proceedings were held in an exemplary way.

I would like to emphasize here our pleasure for the presence here with us, for the first time during an I.O.A. session, of representatives of the Olympic Committees of Russia — which is a mighty Olympic power — Bulgaria, our friendly neighbour, and Zair, a new African Republic, and we sincerely hope that they will join us during all future sessions.

We have lived in the serene environment of Olympia for two weeks and have been studying the question of the contribution of intellectuals to the Olympic movement and I hope that we all feel satisfied with the achieved results.

We are no authority; we have no power to decide and legislate. We are free men and from a free rostrum we express our ideas, we discuss, and seek and aim at improvement. We maintain the flame of Olympism burning and try to spread its light to the people of the world, in order to win them to our cause and help them join the ranks of the faithful of the Olympic idea, the builders of its greatness. With your eager and enthusiastic cooperation we have come to the end of the 13th Session and we must all feel proud for the fruitful work we have carried out.

I extend my thanks and congratulations to all those who contributed to the success of this Session, the dean, the director, the deputy dean and all the members of the staff who worked closely with us and I wish you all good health and a happy return to your countries.

Your interesting ideas and proposals will be published in the annual report of the I.O.A. which you will receive in due course. The conclusions of your discussions will be submitted to the I.O.C. which is the only competent body to decide on the proposals which are related to its activity.

This however is not the only aspect of the important work which is

being done in the International Olympic Academy. There is something more which in my humble opinion is much more important :

You, my dear young friends, with your charming youth, your faces, your freedom of expression, your friendly young hearts and the true fraternal spirit which was shared by all during the fortnight of your stay here, the ties of friendship you have formed and which you will take with you as you go back to your beautiful countries and the happy memories of our peaceful country which will live in you and which have brought us closer.

The work of the International Olympic Academy is based on all this, my dear friends, on friendship, understanding and cooperation and we fervently hope that these friendly ties will be maintained, through the Academy, for the years to come, because in this way you will realize that the Olympic idea is a power which unites the whole world in the service of peace and fraternization.

I place these principles, these ideas, these feelings of friendship, fraternization and understanding, in your hands because you will be our successors and the staunch supporters of the I.O.A.'s future and therefore of the whole future of Olympism.

