

*Address*  
*by Mr. EPAM. PETRALIAS (GRE)*  
*President of the International Olympic Academy*  
*Secretary General of the Hellenic Olympic Committee*  
*at the closing session*  
*of the 1st International Session for Educationists*

Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of the 1st International Session for Educationists and I can truly say that I feel a deep satisfaction for the work which we have carried out. We have listened to remarkable lectures presented by your distinguished colleagues and we have paved the way for the establishment of these International Sessions through which fruitful contacts between the educationists from the whole world which believes in Olympism will be achieved.

I am animated by a permanent optimism which should govern the thoughts of each man who believes in absolute justice and in the divine power of the Creator of life and the universe. Although we live in uncertain and troubled times, I am convinced that humanity will follow its course towards the attainment of its goal which is the creation of better and happier human beings. Education has a role to play in this world, a major role inspired by humanistic ideals.

Olympism, Olympic principles and the Olympic Movement pursue the same aims. The International Olympic Academy is the expression of these ideas and its task is to open the way towards the consolidation of the ideals which are promoted through sports. The activity of the I.O.A. for thirteen years has justified the hopes of its founders and the need for this institution is more than apparent. The lofty preaching of Olympia attracts an ever increasing number of pilgrims and I can say that this is indeed a happy day since we are closing, with such good omens, yet another Session, the 1st International Session for Educationists.



Gentlemen,

I wish to express my sincere joy for the fruitful work done during this Session and I wish to reiterate my unshakable belief in the educationist who, by his position and role, is our permanent co - worker for the propagation of our ideas and the dedicated preacher of these ideas.

I believe that the results of this first trial - session will be studied, at great length, so that its aims can be extended in future to include a permanent voluntary cooperation between this Academy and the main representatives of education who, as I have just underlined, are responsible for the moral and cultural development and progress of the people.

I extend to all of you my deepest appreciation for your warm and noble contribution to the work of the I.O.A. and wish you a happy return to your countries.

May divine and sacred Olympia inspire you in your endeavours for the benefit of education as a whole, the consolidation of Olympic ideals and peace in the world.

