

## CLOSING ADDRESS

By MR. EP. PETRALIAS

*President of the International Olympic Academy.*

Distinguished speakers,

Dear participants,

We have come to the end of this year's successful session.

This Session was a milestone in the history of the International Olympic Academy because it marked the end of its first ten years of operation; it is the close of this fruitful first decade that we are celebrating to-day.

We have worked for two weeks on the problems of the Olympic Movement and of sports in their ever renewed and acute forms; we have come here to draw inspiration from the past, from the sacred Altis, to work together at the building of a cultural, social and idealistic edifice that serves the great cause of human progress and cooperation among peoples, and thus the cause of world peace.

We listened with great attention and interest to lectures on the philosophy of the Olympic Movement, on the history of the Games, on the city-state of Elis and the sanctuary of Olympia, on sports and the fine arts, on the importance of bibliographical documentation, on physical education, on the contribution of mass media and the role of the Press, we examined the topic of this year's Session concerning the preparation of athletes for participation in the Olympic Games, and we discussed a number of other subjects during the Seminars.

It is indisputable that the athletic movement is continuously gaining ground in our times, and that the faithful of this new religion — as it was so successfully termed by Mr. Brundage, President of the International Olympic Committee — have multiplied and become predominant all over the globe. But at the same time the size of the problems, which have always existed, has increased accordingly.

We, of course, are not the body that bears the great responsibility of providing immediate and definite solutions to the problems of sports.

We have discussed some serious problems, and we have discussed them with mutual understanding and an excellent spirit of cooperation; we will now submit our conclusions to the International Olympic Committee which is the international body vested with the power to make decisions.

From this rostrum, I wish to express to all of you my full appreciation for your readiness to cooperate, and my gratitude to the main speakers of the 10th Session for their valuable contribution to the success of the proceedings.

All of you are of course aware that our era is marked by tendencies which can be described as irrational and abnormal. All over the world there are islets of restless youth, and the only possible justification I can think of for all the absurdities, is that parts of impetuous youth remain uninformed and therefore look with terror to the unknown future.

The Olympic Philosophy in its simplicity includes humane ideals apt to heighten the value of the human body and the human mind and lead to genuine «beauty».

It is a philosophy which, by inspiring youth, can support the family and hence society, can lead to the individual's physical and mental perfection, can improve man's culture and help him develop his creative faculties, face the vicissitudes of life with optimism, acquire the sense of responsibility and finally to form a proud and stable personality.

You, the few high-principled young men and women who study and inquire into the Olympic ideals with us, are our comfort and our hope. With your help and your ready and dedicated cooperation, we shall succeed in making this nucleus grow and in spreading the Olympic principles and beliefs until they become widely accepted by all nations.

Dear friends,

The time has come for me to wish you all farewell.

Believe me, we have tried to do everything in our power to make your stay with us as comfortable and pleasant as possible. Any shortcomings you may have noticed were certainly unintentional and I hope you will forgive us for them.

Please take with you to your several home countries our cordial Olympic greetings and our love from this Country - Greece.