

SPEECHES, ARTICLES BY ULBRICHT, HONECKER

Ulbricht to Olympic Team

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Ulbricht speech at Council of State reception for the GDR Olympic team on 8 November in East Berlin

Text Dear GDR participants of the Olympic Games, dear friends and comrades: In the name of the SED Central Committee, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, and the people of the GDR, I wish to heartily congratulate the GDR Olympic team, the National Olympic Committee, the German Gymnastic and Sports Association, and the Society for Sports and Technology on their successful participation in the 19th Olympic Summer Games in Mexico City.

You, dear Olympic participants, have greatly pleased all our citizens and have set an outstanding example of striving for success for the youth of our republic! You have strengthened the reputation of the GDR, of the first socialist state in German history, all over the world! You have won for yourself, for the socialist sports movement of the GDR, new recognition and new friends! For this we express our gratitude and esteem to all GDR Olympic participants, to the sportsmen and sports women, to the trainers, officials, doctors, referees, an scientists and to the leaders of the team, our friends Manfred Ewald and Dr Heinz Schoebel.

We also thank the sports leaders under whom the Olympic participants were educated and trained. And we thank the relatives of the sportswomen, sportsmen, trainers, and officials for having supported the preparations of our Olympic participants with understanding.

Dear friends, third place in the list of nations in these Olympic games and the 25 gold, silver, and bronze medals have again stressed and strengthened the good position of the GDR among the leading sports countries. One must proceed from the fact that over 100 countries participated in the 19th summer games of which 52 were entered with ranks from one to six into the list of nations. The 248 sportswomen and sportsmen of our republic held their third position with 238 points in this biggest and strongest field of competitors of all Olympic summer games held so far.

The establishment of sovereign rights for GDR sports in the International Olympic Committee and in such important international sports associations as the international Soccer Federation, the International Federation for Field and Track Competitions and swimming, and the International Federations for Bicycle Sports and Shooting, and the elimination of the discriminating restrictions which had been in effect up to now are a further important result of the GDR's participation in the Olympic Games in Mexico. Our future Olympic teams now have the right to enter like the teams of other countries with the flag, emblem, anthem, and the good name of the GDR.

This decision once more underscored that the pretensions to the right of sole representation will not succeed, neither in sports nor in politics. Today, sportsmen and other citizens of West Germany should realize even better that there are no future chances for the antisports' and antipeoples' policy of revanchism and militarism pursued by Bonn, not even in the sheep's clothing of a new or newest "Eastern policy." Hardly anyone in the international world of sports is today any longer prepared to accompany Bonn on its hopeless path of pretensions for sole representation. This, however, does not mean that the government of Kiesinger, Strauss, and Brandt and its Daume group in the West German sports leadership are prepared to deviate from their so-called pretensions for sole representation in the field of sports or in other fields. On the contrary, one will have to expect that they will abuse the 1972 Olympic games in Munich for new machinations against international sports and against GDR sports.

The Bonn cabinet now wants to finally place its political pretensions to sole representation over the worldwide laws of sports and to "abolish," in view of the Olympic games in Munich, the ceremony of honoring the Olympic winners, a ceremony which, since 1896 belongs to the high moments of the games. Thus, the Bonn pretensions to sole representation are to be spread over all international sports.

The establishment of the sovereignty of GDR sports, however, shows that an increasing number of forces all over the world are prepared to respect reality in the interests of peace, security, and friendship of peoples and to do everything to promote the understanding between the peoples and the states with the people, the state, and the sports of the GDR as well. Contrary to these very interests the Bonn government and the West German sports leadership is still following a path which is in extreme contradiction to the cause of understanding, peace, and friendship of peoples. Thus, the gentlemen in Bonn and the Daume group will have to resign themselves to the fact that they will receive further defeats for their recalcitrance.

Dear friends: in West Germany, certain people are also trying to evaluate the results of Mexico City. As early as on the first day after the games, Springer's notorious BILD-ZEITUNG came out with it. "Mexico was the biggest failure of German sports" was what its 1-centimeter-high headline tried to suggest. Permit us to add a realistic correction to this headline: Mexico is the greatest failure of the Bonn pretensions to sole representation in the field of sports! Otherwise we have nothing against it if Springer, who in his prophetic, superior manner had forecast 44 medals for West Germany, confirms his own failure. For us, for the sports of the first socialist state of German nation, Mexico represented a tremendous success!

In view of this, sports circles in many countries and also in West Germany are now asking for the cause of the GDR successes in sports. We are prepared to answer this question: The GDR participation in the Olympic games in Mexico City was successful because it was the result of a continuous, comprehensive development of physical culture and sports promoted by the SED, the state and the government.

Our children and youth Spartakiades; the sports of the working people; the expansion of training and competition activities in the German Gymnastic and Sports Association and in the Society for Sports and Technology; and the increasing scientific

organization, management, and methods in sports have made sports and physical culture a cause of the whole people. Thus, Olympic victories are only one part of the goal for which the GDR is striving. Our Roland Matthes gave a reporter in Mexico the correct reply when the most successful Olympic participant of the GDR was asked the reason for his abilities in swimming. Our young sports friend said: "How did I join sports? Through swimming at school, which is a mandatory course in our country."

GDR participation in the Olympic Games in Mexico was also successful because our sportswomen and sportsmen, during every hour of the Olympic competition, were closely linked with their socialist state, with the people of our Republic, and with their families, colleagues, and friends. The heartfelt greetings of the Olympic team to the working people and to the youths on the 19th anniversary of the GDR and on the rally of young revolutionaries and the flood of telegrams and congratulations sent by our people to Mexico are a beautiful sign for the growing socialist community of men. This makes it understandable why our Wolfgang Nordwig and other medal winners clearly declared in Mexico that they regard their personal decoration as a contribution to the success of the GDR team, and why they firmly protested when West German journalists tried to falsify this clear reply.

Finally, the GDR participation in the Olympic Games in Mexico City was also successful because present at the site of the games was a wonderful collective of GDR citizens, sportsmen, trainers, sports officials, scientists, doctors, and journalists who shared all the pleasures and worries with each other and for each other. On the concluding day of the 19th summer games, the team's leadership stressed with full justification that the good total result of the GDR team was the result of a collective effort.

Dear friends! The thing is now to continue along the successful socialist path of our sports with the good results and experiences gained at Mexico and to creatively implement the new tasks posed by the Council of State for the further formation of the developed social system of socialism in the field of physical culture and sports. Everything is aimed at implementing in the GDR the physical culture of the people and at making sports a cause of the entire people.

Our next big goal is the fifth German gymnastic and sports festival of the GDR in July 1969, in the 20th year of the existence of the first socialist state of the German nation. Proceeding from the 11th Council of State session, I wish to stress once more in preparation for this important sports and cultural event:

The peoples representation and the state organs, the chairmen of the bezirk and Kreis councils, of the towns and communities should let themselves be guided even more by the realization that the sports activities of the citizens in their residential areas, in recreation areas in the vicinity, and at vacation spots are of great importance for spending their free time in a cultured manner. The organs of people's education and the directors of schools should understand even better that sports training and sports competition on the basis of a solid basic physical culture training is of high value for the education of youths. The managers of our enterprises and the chairmen of our cooperatives in the countryside should do even more

for giving physical culture and sports a secure place in labor culture and in the active recreation of the working people.

We appeal to the leaderships of the social organizations and particularly to the Free German Trade Union Federation and the Free German Youth, to the German Gymnastic and Sports Association, and to the Society for Sports and Technology to enlist the working people and the youth even more than now for sports and games to make the social and cultural life of our people even richer and more beautiful. On the occasion of the 20th birthday of our republic and your fifth German gymnastics and sports festival, we shall also render an account in all bezirke, kreise, cities, and provinces of what new progress has been achieved in the people's sports with the aid and initiative of all citizens.

Finally, it will only be proper to go ahead and utilize the 19th Olympic Summer Games in Mexico City, to utilize the positive experiences, to learn from shortcomings, and to prepare with new energy for the Olympic games of 1972 in Sapporo and Munich. The joint aim is to represent the GDR in a dignified way in 4 years' time--with high sport performances, with splendid young people of socialism, under the emblems of the first socialist state of a German nation!

For me it is a particular pleasure to express today to female and male athletes, trainers, functionaries, physicians as well as to collaborators of the press, and the German television and radio the gratitude and appreciation of the GDR Council of State and the Council of Ministers for your outstanding merits and performances in strengthening and fortifying the German Democratic Republic and its international prestige.

At the recommendation of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers, I am now awarding to meritorious sports friends the Patriotic Order of Merit, the Order Star of People's Friendship, and the Order of the Labor Banner.

I congratulate the successful GDR participants in the Olympic games and all who were decorated today and wish you all good health and creative power and new successes for the glory of our GDR!

To you all a heartfelt good luck in sports!