

## To All Participants Of Universiade '83

You have gathered from all corners of the world in Edmonton in a spirit of sportsmanship and friendship to foster the olympic ideal of peace, co-operation and mutual understanding among individuals, peoples and nations. Universiade '83 is a forum for friendly competition and human contacts based on the concept of equality, brotherhood and freedom of students and nations, regardless of their size and might, and exemplifies the determination of civilized humanity to end all discrimination, racism, colonialism and all other forms of individual or national oppression. It is a forum for individual excellence and collective pride, where athletes, regardless of race or creed compete in friendship, where nations, whether large or small salute the achievements of their youth.

In keeping with the ideals, we condemn all violations of the principles underlying this event and consider it our duty to bring to the attention of athletes, spectators and visitors of the Universiade '83 the most outstanding and cynical violator of the spirit of Universiade '83 — the Soviet Union.

While we welcome the athletes obliged to appear under the banner of the USSR and congratulate them for their efforts and victories, we do so with the knowledge that their achievements will not be allowed to serve as an example of individual excellence or as representatives of their nationality. Their participation is dictated not by Moscow's desire to advance sporting ideals, but will be utilized to demonstrate political and ideological "superiority", to legitimize national and human oppression and exploitation.

We draw your attention to the fact that dozens of nations, comprising millions of peoples such as Armenia, Byelorussia, the Baltic States, Georgia, Turkestan, and Ukraine, are denied any representation at Universiade '83. Instead, hundreds of athletes from these nations are forced to participate as representatives of the imperial conglomerate of the USSR, their identity being simply defined as 'Russian' or submerged under the facade of representing one 'Soviet' people.

Ukraine, a nation of 50 million, formally seated at the United Nations is given no status at Universiade '83; yet

hundreds of her athletes of high calibre have been exploited and harnessed to man the 'Russian' or 'Soviet' team. Their success will not be allowed to reflect upon their nation but will be credited to the oppressive colonial empire of the USSR and its vicious authoritarian regime.

We will witness the flag of a power whose 'internationalism' means military aggression in Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia and Afghanistan, whose policies of 'progress, socialism and democracy' are accompanied by national, political, social, cultural and religious oppression, where demands for human rights and civil liberties are met with concentration camps and psychiatric asylums.

We will witness individual dedication and excellence manipulated and abused by a totalitarian power which views sport merely as another tool in their political designs.

Such cynicism cannot be tolerated. If the ideals of sportsmanship and brotherhood are to have any meaning, if we truly desire global harmony and peace, we cannot remain indifferent to Soviet-Russian oppression.

It is therefore in the name of the millions of peoples, of all the athletes of the USSR team who cannot state their case, that we appeal to all athletes and visitors of Universiade '83 to challenge every manifestation of Soviet Russian imperialism. We ask you to confront all Soviet functionaries and officials with questions of violations of human and national rights in the USSR. We appeal to members of the press not to comply with Soviet propaganda in terming the athletes as 'Soviet' or 'Russian' but to identify them as members of their respective nations. Finally we call on the world community to censure the USSR and impose appropriate sanctions.

Let us work towards an end to all colonialism, discrimination and oppression, towards the day when the athletes from the captive nations in the USSR will be able to participate in international sporting events as representatives of their free and independent nations.

**Concerned Ukrainian Youth at Universiade '83**