THE FIRST WORLD OLYMPIC ASSEMBLY OF THE UKRAINIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Gomadingen, 22. 8. 1972

AN APPEAL

TO YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE FREE WORLD ON THE OCCASION OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN MUNICH, GERMANY

Dear Friends!

We, young Ukrainians, members of the Ukrainian Youth Association gathered here from many countries of Western Europe, the United States and Canada, while holding our world assembly in Gomadingen, draw your attention to the following:

- 1. We want to emphasise the fact that the 50 million strong Ukrainian people and its youth and sportsmen are not represented at the Olympic Games as a separate national group but are included in the Soviet, i. e. Russian team. This is a gross violation of the national rights of the Ukrainian people by the Soviet regime, against which we strongly protest.
- 2. We invite young representatives from various nations, those taking part in the Olympic Games, to join us in the protest against the present misappropriation of Olympic medals by one nation at the cost of another, as it is in the case of the Russian empire, the so-called Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
- 3. We also appeal to you to stand up in defence of arrested and persecuted young intellectuals in Ukraine, such as Ivan Dzyuba, Ivan Svitlychnyi, Vyacheslav Chornovil, Mykhaylo Osadchyi, Vasyl Stus, Ihor Kalynets, Yuriy Shukhevych, Nina Strokata-Karavanska, Stephania Shabatura and hundreds of others. Their persecution by the Soviet regime is an outrageous violation of elementary human rights. Therefore let us raise our voices in firm protest and demand that they do away with such barbarous and inhuman methods of solving the national and cultural questions in the USSR.

If our protests do not lead to changes, then let all of us boycott the Soviet cultural and sport teams at the international games. We want peace and international cooperation but not at the cost of keeping quiet about the trampling of human rights in countries of an imperial nature and under a totalitarian regime.

Long live freedom for individuals and nations, as a guarantee of international justice and peace.

PRESIDIUM OF THE WORLD OLYMPIC ASSEMBLY OF THE UKRAINIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

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