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On 18 and 19 July in the big stadium of Franklin Field in Philadelphia there took place a track and field meet between teams of the US and the Soviet Union. This meet was probably one of the greatest athletic events of the current year.

Moreover, as the second in a series it has become a traditional meet of the athletes of the two countries. Last year's meet was held in Moscow. As was expected, [in this year's meet] in the men's events the hosts emerged victorious by a score of 127 to 108, while the Soviet women athletes won out by a score of 67 to 40. According to the system accepted in the western world, the points for men and women are counted separately, but in the Soviet Union, and in general as soon as you get behind the Iron Curtain, they are all counted together.

It must be said, as is always the case when it comes to establishing rules and regulations, that the views of the West and East were different, so that it was possible to get the men's and women's points counted separately only after the Track and Field [lehkoatletychna] Federation of America agreed to count five points for first place in the relay and three points for second, although generally in such meets, when each country has two contestants in each event and the points are counted on a 5-3-2-1 basis, there are only two relay teams, one for each country, and the points are counted 5-2.

The settlement of this kind of dispute reminded one somewhat of the course of the Geneva conference of ministers of foreign affairs, with this difference: the representatives of the [two] countries had to come to some agreement or put off the meet.

The Soviet group consisted of 56 persons, of whom about half took part in the events; the rest were representatives, administrators, judges, and a whole group of people whose main task was to prevent reporters and spectators from having free contacts with the athletes. All were dressed in dark-blue suits with the red emblem of the Soviet Union on the left side of the chest. Some of the women wore cheap dresses which reminded one of the rationed [Bezugsschein] stuff during the German occupation. The men had identical black leather shoes, the women, various kinds of low-heeled summer shoes. It should be pointed out that the athlete in the Soviet Union belongs to a privileged class, especially the "master of sport," and in accordance with his position is much better taken care of than the ordinary citizen.

The delegation was taken en masse to the zoo and to a moving picture theater with an enormous panoramic screen, and went to look at an urban housing development. When a Philadelphia newspaper the next day published a picture of one of the Soviet women trying out some modern kitchen equipment with a delighted smile, the leaders were enraged by the caption under the photograph, saying that there was nothing here to be so delighted about, because "we have finer and better houses ourselves, with just as modern equipment."

According to unverified information, there were from 12 to 17 persons of Ukrainian origin, one Estonian, one Latvian, and one Belorussian among the athletes. It is generally known that the policy of the Soviet Union is one of levelling off the national distinctions between its subjects and bringing them all together under the term "Soviet man", identifying this man with the Russian model. Therefore, the appearance of national teams,

with the Ukraine in the forefront, as separate groups [komandy] remains till now an open question.

Right after the first conversations you could see that in your presence the people with a responsive attitude [vidpovidne nastavlennya - suitable tendency?¹] were very reserved; any contact at all with the local people could just get them into trouble. Some were insolent, all were disputatious. Their sole moto [motto?] was: "Everything that you have, we have, too, and have it better, and so it will continue to be in the future, for our ideology is the most advanced in the world, and only it can save humanity from the destruction to which the western world is leading it." Sometimes these arguments led to absurdity, as happened in a conversation with ~~Semen~~ Pinyshchyn, a Red Army sergeant, who, when asked how he liked Philadelphia, answered, "I don't like it at all; there are too many autos and a very strong smell of gasoline." In the course of further conversation he remarked that they had just as many cars in Moscow as we have in Philadelphia, and when one of those present asked him if the gasoline in his country smelled like perfume, it was difficult for him to find a proper answer.

The leaders and administrators were a separate group who with sweating brows tried to paint life in the Soviet Union in the most glowing colors, at the same time accusing their hosts of warlike intentions, the American intervention of 1918 in Murmansk, and the war in Korea and Egypt. They even blamed them for false information given them by the American Embassy in Moscow with regard to prices existing in America. They complained about

1. If the first word was vidpovidal'ne this might mean "responsible appointment", i.e., "position"; this may be the meaning intended.

the insufficiency of food, although, on checking with the athletes, not one of the latter expressed any dissatisfaction. Most of the athletes were reserved and reluctant to enter into conversation, answered briefly, and almost never took part in any discussions; one sensed that there was greater freedom when it was possible to start up a conversation on an individual basis. From them it was possible to hear about the changes which have taken place in the Soviet Union--about the flow of the young people from the country to the city, and the refusal to go to the virgin lands; they themselves very seldom asked questions. Before their departure the athletes had had tryout meets, and had spent two weeks in training at Moscow. Most of them were already in good form, for they had taken part in meets in Warsaw and Budapest.

Two world records were established at the meet [in Philadelphia], one of 55 feet, 6 3/4 inches in the shotput by the powerful, 22 year old woman student from Khar'kov, Tamara Press. The other, also in the shotput by ~~was by the~~ veteran American athlete, P. O'Brien - 63 feet, 2 1/2 inches. Tamara was also captain of the Soviet women's team.

A Ukrainian woman was also first in the high jump for women - Tayisa Chenchyk from Chernigovskaya Oblast, who works as an electrical engineer in Chelyabinsk; her best leap was 5 feet 10 inches. In the 800 meters for women, the best race was run by ~~by~~ Lyudmilla Lysenko, graduate of the Leningrad Institute of Physical Culture. Po cholovikovi Shevtsova 2 kh v 11 min.
3 sec.[?]

~~by~~ Viktor Lifshyts', a student of the same institute, who came from Nizhyn [Nizhyno?] to study in Leningrad contented himself with third place [in the shotput] after the record-holder, P. O'Brien, and Davis. His put was 54 feet 10 inches.

V. Tsebulenko of Kiev, former holder of the Soviet Union record for the javelin throw, was third after the considerably stronger Al [All] Contelli and the Russian, ~~Kuznetsov~~ [his throw was] 258 feet 1 inch.

Third also was ~~Ihor~~ Petrenko, formerly of Kiev, who vaulted 14 feet 6 1/4 inches in the pole vault. In the 80 meter hurdles ~~Halyna~~ Grinval'd had the same time as the winner, ~~AH.~~ Bystrova, 11 seconds. ~~Ihor~~ Ter Ovanesyan, graduate of the L'vov Institute of Physical Culture and the son of a famous pre-war athlete, had a weak performance. A new world record in the broad jump was expected from him. The record was established in 1936 by the American negro, D. Ovvens [J. Owens], and was 26 feet 2 inches. [Ter Ovanesyan] took second place with a jump of 25 feet 9 1/4 inches, 9 3/4 inches less than that of the winner, the American. G. Bell.

The hosts were notably weaker in the races from 5,000 to 10,000 meters. For example, of four of their entries in the 10,000 meters, three fell unconscious, and only two finished the race. The 3,000-meter hurdles and the 20-kilometer walk also resulted in notable victories for the visitors.

The victory of the Belorussian ~~Rudenko~~, over world-record-holder Harold Connolly was unexpected, as Rudenko himself admitted. Connolly is widely known for his marriage to the Czech women's record holder, with whom he became acquainted at the Olympic Games in Australia in 1956.

The general results of the meet were not outstanding; the reason for this was the suffocating heat of the first day, reaching 90°, and the rain which fell the second day.

In exchanging ideas with visitors [vidviduvachy] [to the meet], one could not fail to notice the unfavorable and sometimes even hostile attitude toward the [Soviet] athletes on the part of some visitors, who, not

understanding the real state of affairs see [in the Soviet people] only blind fanatics and cannot distinguish in their conversations the false from the true, cannot see the dual personality which after all is quite easy to see under the guise of "the Soviet man". Is not revealing this one of the most important tasks of the political emigration?

*Original in Albanian
submitted to the Secretary - 2
by Vasil Andrievsky*