

To my friends in Y.M.C.A.

I should like today to say a few words to my young friends throughout the world, members of Y.M.C.A., about the activities of Y.M.C.A. in Greece and its task ahead.

As you are aware, my country came out of World War II almost completely ruined and, as was to be expected, Y.M.C.A. could not but share this fate. Throughout the enemy occupation of the country, Y.M.C.A. remained entirely inactive. Upon the liberation and with the commencement of the rehabilitation of the country, Y.M.C.A. again gathered the Greek youths around it and, despite the meagre means at its disposal, it made strides forward particularly in the athletic field during the last few years. It has given the young men of Greece perfect athletic training. I hope that in the near future, provided it acquires the necessary means, equipment and sports grounds for all athletic games, Y.M.C.A. will surprise everybody in this country as well as the world at large.

When in U.S.A. I visited many Y.M.C.A. establishments there and saw for myself the equipment and fine buildings at its disposal. Of course, there can never be a comparison between our own means and those in the States but I entertain the hope that all our friends who will read these lines will assist our effort in every way possible to enable us to acquire ample means and equipment essential to the promotion of athletics, in which case they will feel proud of having contributed to this.

With brotherly greetings,

Stylianós Kyriakides

Boston Marathín Champion 1946.