

SPEECH BY MR. DJURDJE BOSKOVIC

It is both a great honour and a great pleasure for me to be able to greet you on behalf of the Yugoslav Committee, which has also had a share in the organization of this symposium, though it has been a very modest one compared with the enormous amount of work undertaken by the Soviet Committee.

During this coming week — which is unfortunately going to be too short for all of us, in so pleasant a setting — we are going to have opportunity of exchanging friendly handshakes every day and working together on a problem which may appear a little abstract at a first glance. It is in reality quite the opposite and if we look into it more deeply we may well agree that in fact it may be envisaged as part of the foundation of our work.

I am certain that on many points we are all going to agree. On others our ideas may perhaps not always be identical, but we will discuss these amicably.

As specialists we often tend to concentrate on problems either of purpose or of form, or else of a technical sort. As citizens of a resolute nation we are fighting for the preservation of our cultural heritage. As men, we have the right to consider the cultural heritage of the whole world as our own property. But this affection we feel for everything good and beautiful that man has done in the past also involves responsibilities, and for this reason essential problems relating to the safeguarding of historical monuments must be dealt with on an international level. The notion of "society" will then become the notion of the whole of human society.

Let us not forget that our generation represents only one link in the infinite chain of generations of the human race. Let us not forget that it is no more than a bridge between the past and the future. Let us therefore, when we study the past, and strive to safeguard its positive and creative elements, turn our thoughts constantly in the direction of the future. We shall not be successful unless at the same time we strive for peace; this is the only way we can discharge our debt both towards our ancestors and towards the generations which are still to come.

These are the hopes I would like to express, my dear friends, when I wish you every success in your work here.

Djordje BOSKOVIĆ,
Yugoslavia.