



## Address by His Excellency Milenko Bojanić

*Prime Minister of Serbia*

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honoured to be present, among all the participants and illustrious guests, at the opening of your Congress, which in the usual tradition is being held conjointly with the World Gliding Championships, taking place this year, 1972, here in Vršac.

The sailplane pilots, in attaining the outstanding achievements which they now do, rely not only on flying skill but, to an ever increasing extent, on scientific discoveries in the fields of flight technique and meteorology. The designers, in providing the pilots with ever better sailplanes, utilise the discoveries and inventions in the fields of aerodynamics, structures and materials. These subjects are the very ingredients of your Congress, which will thus encourage further research and the co-operation between science and practice, in fact the co-ordination of

the efforts of all engaged in the field of soaring.

With us in Yugoslavia the scientific approach is traditional also. The first researches in soaring meteorology were begun 33 years ago right here in Vršac; they were studies made by Dr. Kuettner of the wave motion of the upper strata of the atmosphere.

The scientific and research work which you are presenting at your Congress will give great encouragement to the younger members of our Vazduhoplovni Savez Jugoslavije (Yugoslav Aeronautical Association) who are interested not only in actual flying but in the scientific and technical aspects also. With us here are the eminent scientists and engineers who have grown up with soaring – today they are professors and research workers at universities and institutes all over the world. They still retain their interest in soaring; and

are only too happy to co-operate with the youngsters who will one day succeed them.

On this occasion, as with all previous ones, the best sailplane pilots from many nations are gathered together, this time at Vršac, to show their paces in these Olympic Games of the air. Their success will depend largely on the qualities of the sailplanes which they fly. The great advances made in these qualities are due to the untiring efforts of you and your predecessors, starting from the very first flights of Lilienthal about 80 years ago and continuing to the researches of today. This Congress about to start will doubtless improve still further the relationship between science and practical flight. On behalf of the Serbian Government, I wish your Congress every success, and I hope that all of you have a pleasant stay in our country.