

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE



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Never seen before!

25,000 GYMNASTS!

Moutier, June 23, 2003: 25,000 is the number of the last count of participants in the 12th World Gymnaestrada to be held July 20-26, 2003 in Lisbon (POR) -- an absolute record!

This figure has mobilized the population of the Portuguese capital. This mass participation has created problems of "Kafkaen" proportion in the areas of lodging, transportation, and security. The members of the local Organizing Committee and its President, Manuel Boa de Jesus, have the situation well under control and are ready to welcome this historic flux of gymnasts.

Gymnaestrada, created in 1953 in Rotterdam, is the major cultural event of the FIG. Organized every four years, this event brings together gymnasts of all ages, from all continents, and from all cultures. The Gymnaestrada excludes any form of competition, promoting instead exhibition and performance opportunities for groups up to 1000 performers! The Gymnaestrada lies within the framework of the FIG's General Gymnastics, a pillar on which rest all the competition disciplines of the FIG (artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline, tumbling, aerobics, and sports acrobatics).

This event is also a vast forum, in which well-known experts proficient in education, pedagogy, and medicine will be able to express their views and discuss gymnastics for all ages. Health and physical as well as psychological well-being will be at the center of this cultural event focused on intelligent motricity, which is at the foundation of the most elementary human activity.

The political world understands this; there will be several Delegated Ministers and Secretary of States traveling to Lisbon as observers.

The speaker of the Closing Ceremony will be Dr. Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee.

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