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## **THE ROLE OF SOVIET UNION ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA IN THE PREPARATION OF THE IV ASIAN GAMES JAKARTA IN 1959-1962**

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### **KEYWORDS**

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 Assistance; Indonesia-  
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 Relationship.

### **ABSTRACT**

This article examines the assistance provided by the Soviet Union to Indonesia during the preparation for the IV Asian Games in Jakarta in 1962 and the subsequent impact of that assistance on the hosting of the Games. The research employs the historical method, which consists of five stages: Topic Selection, Source Collection (Heuristics), Verification, Interpretation, and Historiography. The data sources for this research are divided into Primary and Secondary Sources. Primary Sources were obtained from various archives related to the Indonesian-Soviet partnership and the preparation for the IV Asian Games, accessible at the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI). Furthermore, Primary Sources also include contemporary newspapers and magazines that reported on the bilateral relationship between Indonesia and the Soviet Union, as well as news concerning the IV Asian Games. Secondary Sources utilized in this study include relevant research and books discussing the Indonesia-Soviet Union relationship and the Asian Games. The findings of this research indicate that the assistance provided by the Soviet Union government to the Indonesian government was vital in the successful organization of the IV Asian Games in 1962, particularly concerning the construction of the sports complex that served as the venue for the largest multi-sport event on the Asian continent. This construction received funding and technical assistance from the Soviet Union. Furthermore, the preparation for the IV Asian Games illustrates the close diplomatic relationship between Indonesia and the Soviet Union, especially during the period of Guided Democracy under the administration of President Sukarno.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Asian Games is a multi-sport event for Asian nations that takes place every four years. It was initiated by Guru Dutt Sondhi, with the objective of developing understanding and friendship among diverse Asian cultures through sports (Sisodia, 2007, pg. 1). For Asian nations, the Asian Games is not merely a sports festival, it also involves international political agenda. This agenda emerged through the Games to demonstrate the supremacy and spirit of the Asian nations, most of which had recently gained independence, including Indonesia. Indonesia's selection as the host of the IV Asian games in 1962, decided at the Asian Games Federation meeting in Tokyo, Japan, on May 23, 1958 became an opportunity for Indonesia to prove to the international community that the Indonesia nation was capable of hosting the biggest sports event on the Asian continent (Kementerian Pemuda dan Olahraga, 1991, p. 626).

However, hosting the Asian Games involves more than just holding the competitions; it also requires preparing a wide range of supporting infrastructure for the IV Asian Games. The most crucial preparation involved securing the sports venues where the Games' events would take place. The construction of these sports venues required considerable funding, and the government had to race against time to complete them before the commencement of the IV Asian Games. Compounding this challenge the Indonesian economy was undergoing a crisis during that period, making it difficult for the Indonesian Government to allocate significant funds for the preparations of the IV Asian Games.

During the era of Guided Democracy, the Indonesian government established a strong diplomatic relationship with the government of Soviet Union, with both parties building cooperation across various sectors. Soviet Union also provided cooperative assistance to Indonesia, specifically for the successful organization of the Asian Games. This assistance included funds and expert personnel to construct the Asian Games complex, which was to be built in the Senayan Area of Jakarta (Fahri, 2023, p. 52). Several studies have previously discussed the IV Asian Games, including the thesis by Amin Rahayu titled *Pesta Olahraga Asia (Asian Games IV) Tahun 1962 di Jakarta: Motivasi dan Capaiannya* (The Asian Sports Festival (IV Asian Games) 1962 in Jakarta: Motivations and Achievements), and the article written by Nia Riski Yulianti, Isawati, and Musa Pelu titled *Pengaruh Asian Games IV Tahun 1962 Terhadap Hubungan Politik Luar Negeri Indonesia Pada Masa Demokrasi Terpimpin* (The Influence of the IV Asian Games 1962 on Indonesia's Foreign Political Relations During the Guided Democracy Era). Additionally, there are other academic works discussing the IV Asian Games in Jakarta. The research presented here, however, differs from previous studies. This research focuses more closely on the assistance provided by the Soviet Union to Indonesia during the preparation for the IV Asian Games, and the vital role of this Soviet aid in ensuring the successful execution of the IV Asian Games in Jakarta.

The assistance provided by the Soviet Union government for the execution of the Asian games in Jakarta is important to study because of the interests they gained by offering this aid, despite the Soviet Union not being a participant in this multi-sport event on the Asian continent. Furthermore, it is crucial to examine the bilateral relationship between Indonesia and the Soviet Union, particularly during the preparation period for the IV Asian games. The approach used in this research employs the concept of Sport Diplomacy, where sport is an inseparable element of international politics. Sport holds a strong appeal in attracting mass attention, leading to numerous diplomatic collaboration between countries, ranging from the exchange of athletes to cooperation in sports infrastructure, which serves as a tool for strengthening diplomatic relations between nations (Dichter, 2022, p. 136).

Through this research, the author will review the Indonesian government's preparations for hosting the IV Asian Games in 1962. Most crucially, the study will analyze the impact of the assistance provided by the Soviet Union to Indonesia in preparing for the Games. This research is essential because it allows us not only to examine how the Indonesian government accommodated the Asian Games amid the country's then unstable economic conditions, but also to observe Indonesia's foreign policy position through the hosting of the IV Asian Games, and the influence of the bilateral relationship between the Soviet Union and Indonesia on the international stage during that period.

## **II. METHODS**

This research uses the Historical Method to conduct the historical inquiry. The purpose of using this method is to reconstruct events that occurred in the past, transforming them into a historical narrative. This process requires research aimed at analyzing data and remnants from the past, as well as testing the validity of those data as historical evidence (Louis Gottschalk, 1985, p. 32). According to Kuntowijoyo in his book, *Pengantar Ilmu Sejarah* (Introduction to Historical Science), there are five stages in historical research: Topic Selection/Theme, Source Collection (Heuristics), Verification (Critiquing the validity of historical sources), Interpretation (Analysis and synthesis), and Historical Writing or Historiography (Kuntowijoyo, 2013, p. 69). The Topic Selection stage is carried out based on the focus of study the author intends to research. Next, the Heuristics stage involves gathering various historical sources, including primary sources (such as contemporary documents, archives, and newspapers) and secondary sources (such as relevant books and articles). Once the sources are collected, the Verification stage is performed to test the validity and credibility of the gathered data. The subsequent stage is Interpretation, which is the process of analysis and synthesis of the verified data before it is structured into a historical narrative. The final stage is Historiography, which is the structuring of the research findings into a cohesive historical narrative, representing the final output of the entire historical research method sequence.

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### Background

Indonesia's selection as the host of the IV Asian Games in 1962 became an opportunity for the Indonesian government to present itself to the international community. President Soekarno viewed the Asian Games not merely as a regional sports festival, but also as a vehicle for projecting a new image of Indonesia globally. Consequently, the Asian Games became a crucial part of Soekarno's 'Lighthouse' political vision (*Visi Politik Mercusuar*) to make Indonesia a global focal point and a patron for Asian-African nations through monumental projects associated with the event ("Pembangunan Monumen-Monumen Di Ibukota," 1962, p. 3).

However, these ambitious projects incurred considerable costs, and Indonesia's economy was in an unstable position, meanwhile the country only had four years to prepare for hosting the Asian Games. Furthermore, to prepare for the Games, Indonesia lacked international-standard sports facilities to serve as venues for the athletes competing in the IV Asian Games. The Soviet Union offered cooperative assistance to the Indonesian government to construct a sports complex specifically intended for the IV Asian Games. As reported by the newspaper *Bintang Timur* on February 20, 1960, the cooperation contract for this assistance had been finalized in October 1959.

It is important to understand the nature of the relationship between Indonesia and the Soviet Union, which can be observed through various cooperative efforts between the two parties, including the construction of the Asian Games sports complex in the Senayan area of Jakarta. The next discussion will examine the cooperative relationship between Indonesia and the Soviet Union in preparing for the Asian Games in Jakarta and the impact of the Soviet Union's assistance on the successful execution of the IV Asian Games.

#### History of Diplomatic Relations Between Indonesia and the Soviet Union

Based on the results of the Dutch-Indonesian Round Table Conference (KMB), the Netherlands officially recognized Indonesia's sovereignty on December 27, 1949 (Kroef, 1952, p. 283). Following this recognition, the Indonesian Government began establishing diplomatic relations with various countries worldwide to strengthen Indonesia's position in the international order. In conducting its foreign affairs, Indonesia adopted a Free and Active foreign policy (*politik luar negeri bebas aktif*), which means it would not side with any of the major world powers (neither the Western Bloc nor the Eastern Bloc), while remaining actively involved in maintaining world peace and cooperation among nations (Leifer, 1989, p. 28; Pedoman-Pedoman Pelaksanaan Manifesto Politik Republik Indonesia, 1961, p. 22)

During that period, Indonesia began establishing diplomatic relations with the two superpowers, namely the United States and the Soviet Union, with the goal of gaining support to become a member of the United Nations (UN). The Soviet Union government had already supported Indonesia's UN membership since January 25, 1950 (Djiwandono, 1996, p. 63). Following this support from the Soviet Union government, Indonesia sent a foreign policy delegation led by L. N. Palar on a diplomatic mission to the Soviet Union on April 15, 1950. This mission had two objectives: to formalize the exchange of Ambassadors between Indonesia and the Soviet Union, and to confirm the Soviet Union's support for Indonesia's UN membership in September 1950 (Singh, 1994, p. 134).

Following the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953, the leadership of the Soviet Union was assumed by Nikita Khrushchev. Under Khrushchev's leadership, the Soviet Union's foreign policy approach began to align more closely with Third World nations, including Indonesia. The Soviet Union sought this closer relationship with Third World countries because it viewed them as independent and progressive forces standing between the influence of the two global powers (Singh, 1994, p. 149). Furthermore, the neutral position of the Third World nations was crucial for the Soviet Union to spread its political influence among them (Rauch, 1958, p. 449). This included Indonesia, which was considered to hold a strong influence among Third World circles. Based on this political perspective, it was highly important for the Soviet Union to establish cooperation with Indonesia (Siahaan, 1996, p. 398).

Following Sukarno's visit to the Soviet Union from August 28 to September 12, 1956, Indonesia secured a credit assistance package from the Soviet Union government totaling US\$100 million. This credit was designated for economic and technical cooperation and was formally signed by both parties on September 15, 1956 (Pauker, 1961, p. 13). This assistance was used to finance several strategic national projects, including the development of the Iron and Steel Project in Cilegon and the Superphosphate Fertilizer Project in Cilacap. (Siahaan, 1996, p. 398). To strengthen relations between the two countries, a reciprocal visit was demonstrated by the Soviet Union government through the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Kliment Yefremovich Voroshilov, from May 6 to 19, 1957 (Siahaan, 1996, p. 398). In addition to strengthening the relationship between the two countries, this visit reaffirmed the Soviet Union government's stance supporting Indonesia's struggle to reclaim the West Irian territory from the Netherlands (*Visualisasi Diplomasi Indonesia 1945-1995*, 1998, p. 135).



**Figure 1.** The Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Kliment Yefremovich Voroshilov, and President Soekarno arrived at Kemayoran Airfield for the visit of the Soviet Government Delegation to Indonesia on May 15, 1957.

Source : ANRI, Kementerian Penerangan RI Wilayah Jakarta Tahun 1957 No. 37328

In its development, the bilateral relationship between Indonesia and the Soviet Union grew increasingly close. High-ranking officials from both nations fostered good communication to ensure the continuation of the friendship between Indonesia and the Soviet Union. One example of this was the congratulatory message sent for the 14th anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia's Independence from the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Kliment Voroshilov, and the Premier of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev. In their message, they expressed the hope that the friendly relations and cooperation between the nations would continue successfully for the benefit of the people of both countries, and for the interests of world peace (Dajawan, 1960, p. 30). The newspaper *Harian Rakjat* reported on August 21, 1959, that First Minister Ir. Djuanda gave a reciprocal address during his speech on Radio Moscow. In this address, he conveyed that the friendship established between Indonesia and the Soviet Union not only brought prosperity (or glory/success) to both parties but also served the interests of peace among nations worldwide.

On February 18, 1960, the Premier and Supreme Leader of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev, visited Indonesia following his tour of several Asian countries (Djiwandono, 1996, p. 99), Khrushchev's visit to various Asian countries was part of an effort to develop the Soviet Union's relationship with Asian nations ("Friendship Visit to Indonesia," 1960, p. 8). For Indonesia, the visit by Nikita Khrushchev and the Ministers from the Soviet Union was not merely a friendly visit; rather, it served as a tool to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.



**Figure 2.** The Great Speech of President Soekarno and P. M. Nikita Khrushchev  
Source : *Bintang Timur* Edisi 27 Februari 1960, p. 1

Through the visit from the Soviet Union government, Indonesia signed an economic aid cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union government amounting to US\$250 million (Subandrio, 2001, p. 38), The credit provided by the Soviet Union was intended to fund the construction of various strategic industries aimed at developing the Indonesian economy, such as heavy industry, agro-industry, energy, and infrastructure (Boden, 2008, p. 118). According to the newspaper *Bintang Timur* on March 1, 1960, the Soviet side stated that the assistance provided was not a form of exploitation but was based on friendship between nations. By giving aid to nations whose economies were underdeveloped, it would be possible to avoid international disputes and create world peace.

### **Sukarno's Lighthouse Policy (*Politik Mercusuar*) Through the Asian Games**

The Asian Games is a multi-sport event for Asian nations, participated in by countries across the Asian continent. The Asian Games is not merely a regional sports festival; it is also a representation of the unity and resurgence of nations on the Asian continent, most of which were affected by Western colonialism. Thus, the Asian Games serves as a representation of Asian unity through sport.

However, prior to the Asian Games, a regional sports festival already existed in Asia, initiated by the Philippines, Japan, and China: The Oriental Olympic Games, which was held in Manila, the Philippines, in 1913. Two years later, that sporting event was renamed the Far Eastern Championship, which continued until 1934. After the dissolution of the Far Eastern Championship, several countries still attempted to organize a regional Asian sports festival. For example, Japan discussed holding the Orient Championship Games I in 1934, and the West Asian Games was held in India in 1934. However, the continuation of these sports festivals was hindered by World War II, which meant that the plans for a pan-Asian sports event could not be fully realized (Kementerian Pemuda dan Olahraga, 1991, p. 619).

Following the end of World War II, many nations on the Asian continent had gained independence. The discourse for reviving a multi-sport event for Asian nations

subsequently re-emerged. The purpose of this sports festival was to establish unity and peace for Asian nations, which had not yet fully achieved peace due to the massive decolonization process across various parts of Asia following World War II (Huebner, 2018, p. 300). In addition to promoting unity, this Asian sports festival served as a vehicle for demonstrating the supremacy of Asian nations in the international arena through sports.

Guru Dutt Sondhi was the figure who initiated the formation of a regional level sports festival in Asia. This idea was supported by the Primer Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, which he expressed at the Asian Relations Conference held in New Delhi in 1947. Nehru fully supported Sondhi's effort to establish an event involving nations across Asia. This event was intended to serve as a means of uniting Asian nations through a regional sports festival (Huebner, 2018, p. 301).

To ensure the success of the Asian games, an organizing body was formed to oversee the event. This organization was the Asian Games Federation (AGF), which was officially inaugurated on February 13, 1949, in New Delhi, India (Sisodia, 2007, p. 3). In the first session of the Asian Games Federation, Yadavindra Singh, the Maharaja of Patiala, was appointed chairman of the AGF. Jorge B. Vargas was appointed Vice Chairman, and Guru Dutt Sondhi became General Secretary (Rahayu, 2018, p. 21).



**Figure 3.** The Logo of Asian Games

Source: Logo Asian Games: Visual Tanpa Kesatuan

<https://dgi.or.id/read/observation/logo-asian-games-visual-tanpa-kesatuan.html>

The constitution of the Asian Games Federation decided that the Asian Games would be held every four years, with the first championship scheduled for 1950. The inaugural Asian Games was initially set to take place in New Delhi, India, in February 1950 (Sisodia, 2007, p. 3). However, the execution of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Games in New Delhi was postponed until the following year due to the unreadiness of the infrastructure to host the event. The 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Games was finally held from March, 4 to 11, 1951, in New Delhi, India. The 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Games was attended by 11 nations and approximately 600 athletes and staff. The participating countries included Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon (Srilanka), Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, and Muangthai (Thailand) (Rahayu, 2012, p. 3).

Following the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Games, Indonesia developed an ambition to host the Asian nations; sports festival. Indonesia was ultimately selected as the host of the IV Asian Games through a decision by the Asian Games Federation in Tokyo on May 23, 1958. President Soekarno viewed the Asian Games as more than just a regional multi-sport event for the Asian Continent; he saw it as a platform to showcase the image of the Indonesian nation on the international stage. The execution of the Asian Games in Jakarta was thus manifestation of the 'Lighthouse' political vision (Visi Politik Mercusuar) championed by Soekarno.

Through hosting the Asian Games in Jakarta, Soekarno aimed to present a new image of Indonesia to the international community, which aligned with the Lighthouse Policy (Politik Mercusuar) he championed. Soekarno also used this major pan-Asian sporting event not only to showcase Indonesia's new image globally but also as a means to strengthen his political influence both domestically and internationally by implementing the spirit of the New Emerging Force (NEFO) during the IV Asian Games.

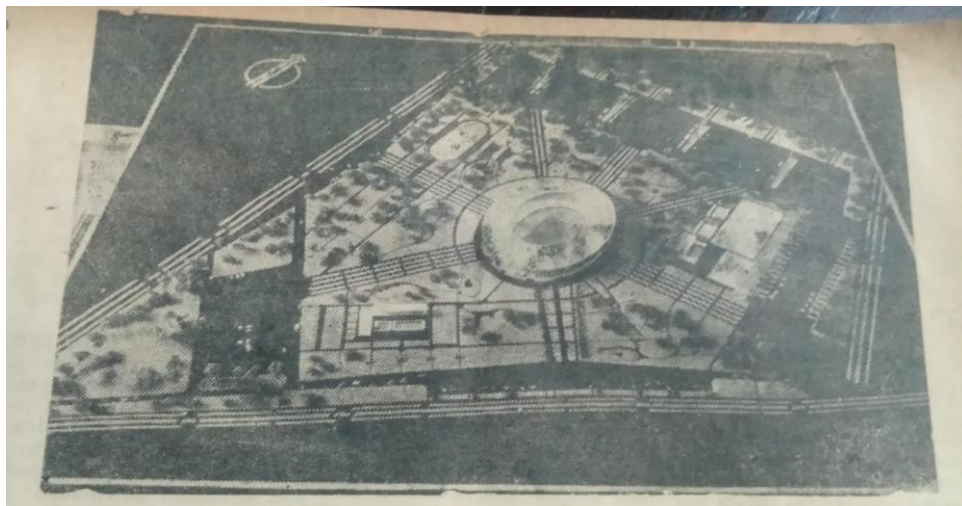
### **Soviet Union's Assistance to Indonesia in Preparation for the Execution of the Asian Games from 1959-1962**

With Indonesia's selection as the host of the IV Asian Games, the Indonesian government must build international-standard sports infrastructure as the venues for both national and international athletes to compete in the games. Furthermore, Soekarno had a grand vision of the hosting of Asian Games must become the focus of international attention, necessitating the construction of a gigantic sports complex to instill a sense of pride in the Indonesian nation (Adams, 2018, p. 354). However, Indonesia's domestic political situation was unstable, which negatively impacted the country's economic conditions. Consequently, many parties, particularly the Asian Games Federation, doubted Indonesia's readiness to host the Asian Games in 1962, especially since Indonesia only had four years to prepare all aspects related to the Jakarta Games.

The Indonesian government requested credit assistance from the Soviet Union government for the Asian Games project, as Indonesia was establishing cooperative relationships with the Soviet Union in various sectors during that period. For the Soviet Union, the strategy for drawing closer to Third World countries was through sport diplomacy. The Soviet Union provided sports aid, ranging from assistance with athlete training and the dispatch of coaches to the construction of sports infrastructure in various nations, with the objective of gaining sympathy from the Third World countries (Riordan, 1974, p. 340). One example of this was with Indonesia. Seeing the importance of Indonesia in the geopolitics of the Third World, the Soviet Union government provided assistance to Indonesia for the construction of sports infrastructure intended for the execution of the Asian Games in 1962.

The Soviet Union government provided assistance to the Indonesian government for the preparation and execution of the Asian Games in Jakarta. This assistance included a credit loan of US\$12.5 million designated for the construction of the gigantic stadium and various supporting sports centers (Leifer, 1989, p. 100). In addition to funding, there was also assistance in the form of expert personnel from the Soviet Union who helped with the construction of the sports complex. This fact was reported by the newspaper *Bintang Timur* on July 23, 1962, under the headline: "National pride is an absolute necessity in the development of a new nation." The agreement for the credit assistance for the sports complex construction was signed by both parties on October 26, 1959.

The construction of the sports complex symbolically commenced with the setting of the first foundation pile for the Main Stadium by President Soekarno on February 8, 1960 ("Tiang Pertama A. G. IV," 1960, p. 3). As a manifestation of the cooperation between Indonesia and the Soviet Union, the Premier of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev, attended the construction progress of the Asian Games sports complex on February 19, 1960. On that occasion, Khrushchev was granted the honor of setting the 100th foundation pile of the Asian Games Main Stadium. During this event, Nikita Khrushchev stated that the Asian Games Stadium would be completed on time and that no construction effort would be wasted—a statement that was reported by the *Bintang Timur* newspaper on February 20, 1960 (To, 1962, p. 53). President Soekarno declared that the Stadium being built for the Asian Games was an unquestionable symbol of friendship between the Soviet Union and Indonesia ("Projek Olahraga Terbesar Diseluruh Asia: AG IV Djakarta," 1960, p. 6).



**Figure 4.** Sports Complex of the Asian Games IV  
Source : Aneka Olahraga, No. 27, Th. XI, 20 November 1960, p. 9

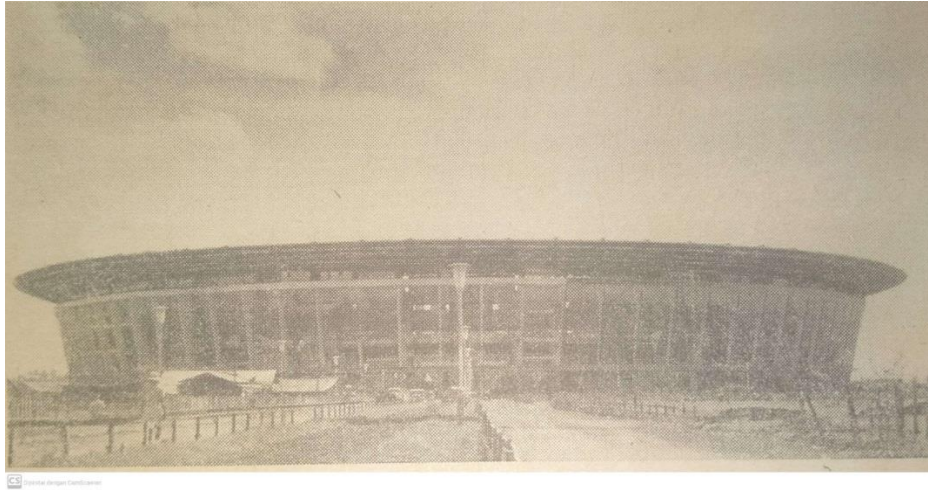
Within the Asian Games sports complex constructed in the Senayan area, there were several sporting venues built to host various competitions during the Asian Games festival, including:

| Venue                  | Capacity           |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Main Stadium           | 100.000 spectators |
| Athletic Stadium       | 25.000 spectators  |
| Sport Hall             | 10.000 spectators  |
| Indoor Swimming Pool   | 8.000 spectators   |
| Indoor Basketball Hall | 4.000 spectators   |
| Indoor Volleyball Hall | 4.000 spectators   |
| Indoor Tennis Hall     | 6.000 spectators   |

**Table. 1** List of Sports Venues for the IV Asian Games Jakarta 1962  
Source : Ang Hong To, *Almanak Olahraga 1962* (Jakarta: Sinpo, 1962), p. 53.

The construction of the Asian Games sports complex was carried out by 40 Indonesian technical experts who led the execution of the work. This was performed by approximately 12,000 civilian and military laborers, whose work schedule was divided into three different shifts. These Indonesian technicians received mentorship from technical experts provided by the Soviet Union, along with experts from other countries such as Hungary, Switzerland, Japan, France, and Germany (Rahayu, 2018, p. 103–104). Regarding the Main Stadium, its architecture was inspired by the Lenin Stadium (now Luzhniki Stadium). During Soekarno's visit to the Soviet Union in 1956, he was impressed by the stadium's magnificence. Consequently, the architect chosen for the Main Stadium of the Asian Games was L. S. Tjatenko, who was one of the technical experts involved in the construction of the Lenin Stadium in Moscow (Khrushchev, 1960, p. 131), working alongside Indonesian architect Friedrich Silaban. (Siagian, 2023).

The most interesting feature of the Asian Games Main Stadium structure was the concept of a circular roof (*atap melingkar*) covering the entire stadium stands, as proposed by Soekarno. At the time, no stadium in the world utilized this concept. The purpose of this design was to ensure that spectators would not be disturbed by the hot sun or rain while watching matches in the stadium. These stadium roofs were made from aluminum (“Projek Olah-Raga Jang Terbesar Di Asia,” 1960, p. 5). architecture of this main stadium structure was not built solely based on the ideas of the Soviet architects; rather, it was the result of shared collaboration between the Soviet technical experts and the Indonesian technical experts (“Kebanggaan Nasional Sarat Mutlak Dalam Pembinaan Suatu Bangsa Baru,” 1962, hlm. 1).



**Figure 5.** The Main Stadium of the Asian Games

Source : Ang Hong To, *Almanak Olahraga 1962* (Jakarta: Sinpo, 1962), p. 55

In addition to the Main Stadium, several other sports venues were also constructed simultaneously so they could all be utilized during the 1962 Asian Games. There was even one venue that had to be completed a year before the Asian Games: the Sports Hall (*Gedung Olahraga*), which was scheduled to be used for the Thomas Cup (men's team badminton championship) in Jakarta in 1961 (To, 1962, p. 51). In accordance with the agreement with the Soviet Union government, the Sports Hall was ultimately completed on time. The Senayan Sport Hall was inaugurated on May 20, 1961. The newspaper *Warta Bhakti* reported on May 24, 1961, that the hall had a capacity of 10,000 people and was scheduled to host the Thomas Cup in Jakarta, which took place from June 1 to 11.



**Figure 6.** Senayan Sport Hall (Istora Senayan), A sports hall used for the badminton competitions during the Thomas Cup in 1961 and the Asian Games in 1962.

Source : Ang Hong To, *Almanak Olahraga 1962* (Jakarta: Sinpo, 1962), p. 51

After the construction of Senayan Sport Hall was finished, several other sport venues were also finalized. These venues included the Madya Stadium (Athletic Stadium) and the Indoor Swimming Pool, the construction of which was completed in December 1961. Furthermore, the Indoor Tennis Stadium was completed on December 25, 1961, and the Basketball Hall was completed in June 1962 (Pour, 2004, p. 105). Furthermore, several other sports venues were also completed before the execution of the Asian games. The pinnacle of this effort was the inauguration of the Main Stadium, which served as the epicenter of the Asian Games sports complex. The stadium was officially opened by President Soekarno together with the Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union, Anastas Mikoyan (Boden, 2008, p. 118). President Soekarno stated that the completion of the Main Stadium was inseparable from the assistance provided by the Soviet Union government to Indonesia. He added that this achievement was a source of pride for both Indonesian and Soviet technical experts, who were able to complete the magnificent stadium, which had a capacity of 100,000 spectators, in only two years of construction ("Presiden Soekarno Buka General Rehearsal A.G.," 1962, p 1). Furthermore, the realization of the Main Stadium and the other sports venues within the Senayan sports complex served as a symbol of friendship between Indonesia and the Soviet Union. The construction was the result of a collaboration between the two parties, encompassing both the design concepts and the physical construction, which enabled the completion of this sports center on time.



**Figure 7.** President Soekarno, accompanied by the Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union, Anastas Mikoyan, performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony as a symbol of the official inauguration of the Main Stadium on July, 1962.

Source : *Bintang Timur*, July 23 1962, p. 1

Following the inauguration of the Senayan Main Stadium, a "General Rehearsal" event was also held. This rehearsal was intended to serve as a simulation for the execution of the IV Asian Games, which was scheduled to begin on August 24, 1962 ("General

Rehearsal A. G. IV, Arti Dan Pengaruhnja,” 1962, p. 1). Indonesian athletes participating in the Asian Games used this General Rehearsal as a warm-up event before the main competition. In addition to Indonesian athletes, and to enhance the event, the magazine *Aneka Olahraga* reported on July 21, 1962, that 27 athletes from the Soviet Union also participated in the IV Asian Games General Rehearsal. They were scheduled to hold friendly matches with Indonesian sportsmen. Some of the sports in which the Soviet athletes participated included Basketball and Athletics. For the Indonesian Government, the General Rehearsal was also an opportunity to assess the readiness of the sports infrastructure and other facilities for evaluation, ensuring that the subsequent execution of the Asian Games would proceed smoothly. Furthermore, it served to demonstrate Indonesia's readiness as the host of the IV Asian Games to both the public and the international community.



**Figure 8.** President Soekarno opened the IV Asian Games General Rehearsal event on July 21, 1962

Source : *Aneka Olahraga*, February 16, 1963, p. 2

The IV Asian Games were officially inaugurated by President Soekarno on August 24, 1962, at the Senayan Main Stadium, Jakarta. The opening ceremony was conducted with great jubilation, where a substantial population of Jakarta's citizenry fully occupied the Senayan Sports Complex, the designated venue for the IV Asian Games ("Kemeriahan Djakarta Mentjapai Puntjaknja Dengan Upatjara Pembukaan Asian Games," 1961, p.7). The execution of the IV Asian Games in Jakarta proceeded with splendor until September 4, 1962, at 18:55 hours, when the extinguishment of the Asian Games Torch at the Senayan Main Stadium signaled the conclusion of the premier sporting event across Asia in Jakarta ("Padamlah Obor Asian Games IV di Djakarta, Berachirlah Pesta Olahraga Se-Asia," 1962, p. 1). The Government of the Soviet Union rendered significant assistance toward the successful realization of the IV Asian Games in Jakarta; the aid extended by the Soviet Union to Indonesia for the construction of sports infrastructure elevated the IV Asian

Games into a focal point of international scrutiny due to its possession of the preeminent sports complex of that era.

In the implementation of the IV Asian Games, the assistance provided by the Soviet Union was vital in the successful culmination of the Asian nations' sporting event in Jakarta. Absent the financial endorsement from the Soviet Union government, the construction of the Asian Games sports complex could not have been effectuated (Lutan, 2007, hlm. 19). Furthermore, through the Soviet Union's contribution, the staging of the IV Asian Games successfully projected a modern image of Indonesia in the international sphere, consistent with President Soekarno's Lighthouse Political (Politik Mercusuar) doctrine.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

The selection of Indonesia as the host of the Asian Games represented a crucial momentum for the Indonesian government to demonstrate to the international community that the newly independent Indonesian nation possessed the capacity to execute a continental sporting festival across Asia. However, on one dimension, Indonesia was confronted with the inadequacy of the executive infrastructure designated for the Asian Games, while the government had a temporal window of only four years to prepare all facets to ensure that the organization of the Asian Games could proceed in accordance with the established expectations.

The Soviet Union supported the Indonesian Government with assistance for the development of sports infrastructure, which comprised credit and expert technical aid for the construction of the sports complex located in the Senayan region. The assistance provided by the Soviet Union to Indonesia became a determining factor in Indonesia's preparations to host the IV Asian games in 1962. The extension and expert technical assistance granted by the Soviet Union government to the Indonesian government, used for the establishment of the sports complex in Jakarta, made a crucial element that ensured the successful execution of the IV Asian Games.

Through the assistance provided by the Soviet Union to Indonesia for the preparation of the IV Asian Games indicated the robust foreign policy relations between Indonesia and the Soviet Union. The bilateral relationship between the two nations is also a form of foreign policy contestation between Indonesian and the Soviet Union during the Cold War era, where both countries utilized this momentum as an instrument of their respective foreign policies.

For Indonesia itself, the success of the Asian Games served as a conduit for showcasing its political influence, particularly to Third World nations, and simultaneously for demonstrating the Lighthouse Political (Politik Mercusuar) vision it had promulgated to the international community. Conversely, for the Soviet Union, the strengthening of the cooperative relationship with Indonesia constituted an avenue to amplify its foreign

political influence among Third World countries, given that the Soviet Union assessed Indonesia as possessing a strong influence over these nations. This endeavor was paramount for the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc nations to counter the hegemony of the United States and the Western Bloc nations within the context of the Cold War contestation.

This particular investigation remains subject to a limitation in assessing the magnitude of the influence of cooperation in the domain of sport between Indonesia and the Soviet Union; the current study is restricted to addressing collaboration in sports infrastructure and the diplomatic relationship between Indonesia and the Soviet Union. Regarding the facet of cooperation in the field of sport, such as the training of Indonesian athletes that may impact the enhancement of Indonesia's sporting achievements, the data retrieved are currently insufficient to accurately represent the sporting cooperation's role in improving athlete performance, specifically within the context of the IV Asian Games. The recommendation proposed for subsequent researchers seeking to expand this study is to conduct research focusing on how bilateral cooperation between countries impacts the advancement of performance within a specific sport discipline existing in Indonesia.

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