

SPEECH OF THE IOC PRESIDENT AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE XVII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Tonight, we can really say that when awarding our games to Lillehammer and to Norway, we placed them in the very best hands. These White-Green Games have shown that it is possible to organize environment-friendly Games. You have also demonstrated that the Olympic Winter Games can be perfectly staged in a small community. All of Norway has been involved, with great enthusiasm, in the true Olympic spirit of friendship solidarity and fair play. Ten years ago, we were in Sarajevo. After many horrors, the situation now seems to be improving. Let us hope that this truce- to which, in our own limited way, we may have contributed, let us hope that this truce will turn into lasting peace. and for our children. DRAGO SARAJEVO. We do not forget you. We will continue to support you. It is now time to express our gratitude to the entire Olympic Movement. Especially to the International Federations and the National Olympic Committees. Thanks to our unity, we are, without a doubt, stronger than ever. Our deep gratitude also, goes:

-To Their Majesties King Harald and Queen Sonja.

-To all authorities in Lillehammer and in Norway, and especially the Prime Minister

-To all the sponsors who have brought their technology, their support and their friendship.

-To the broadcasters and the media for taking these wonderful Games to the world.

-To all of you watching the Games on television in historic record numbers. Thank you for joining us and for supporting the Olympics.

-To the thousands and thousands of volunteers.

-And, most important of all, to you athletes of the world. Your victories have inspired our youth. You have brought honour and pride to your countries.

Our very special thanks go to the entire team of the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee. I now invite my good friend, President Heiberg, to come forward to receive the highly-deserved Gold Olympic Order. To all of you, the people of Norway, it is my great honour to say that you are the real winners of these magic Games. You have presented to the entire world the best Olympic Winter Games ever.

And now, in accordance with the Olympic Charter,

I declare the Seventeenth Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer closed.

In accordance with our tradition, I call upon the youth of the world to assemble four years from now in Nagano, Japan, to celebrate with us the Eighteenth Olympic Winter Games.

TUSEN TAKK LILLEHAMMER

TUSEN TAKK OG FARVEL NORGE

(Thank you Lillehammer, Thank you, Norway. Goodbye.)

evening, when the Swedes with their nerves of steel finally overcame the Canadian team under the ecstatic eyes of the whole of Sweden, including the king.

ENVIRONMENTAL SLED

Night could fall at last, This was a vintage year: the Games had found their limits. Norwegians in their tens of thousands trekked back down the Birkebeiner hill for the last time; this hill that they had climbed every day for sixteen days, cheerfully and ardently, to commune in a single mad, all-encompassing passion. The immense, enthusiastic Norwegian crowd in their multicoloured sweaters, enveloped in red, white and blue banners, will remain one of the strongest images of these Games. On

